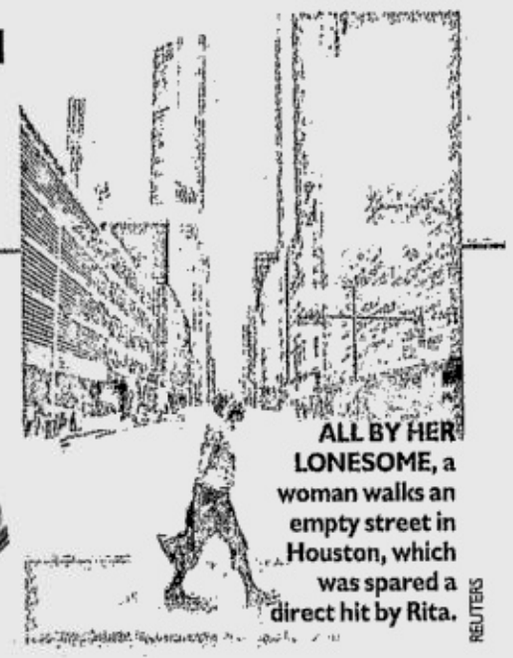
■ MAGAZINE / Q1
Guyito comes of age all painted, polished for PDI's 20th anniversary

■ WORLD / A8
Rita vents fury on Texas, Louisiana with 195 kph winds

■ ENTERTAINMENT / A3-1
Dilemma of PDI man in Hollywood: Which party to attend first?



ALL BY HER LONESOME, a woman walks an empty street in Houston, which was spared a direct hit by Rita. REUTERS

What's the difference between 7600 and 7500?

GEORGETOWN, SOUTH Carolina—In the world of aviation, what's the difference between the codes 7600 and 7500? Plenty of panic, it turns out.

Deputies and a SWAT team surrounded a plane

WHAT'S/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

Sunday, September 25, 2005 ★★ 84 pages / 11 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 289 P18

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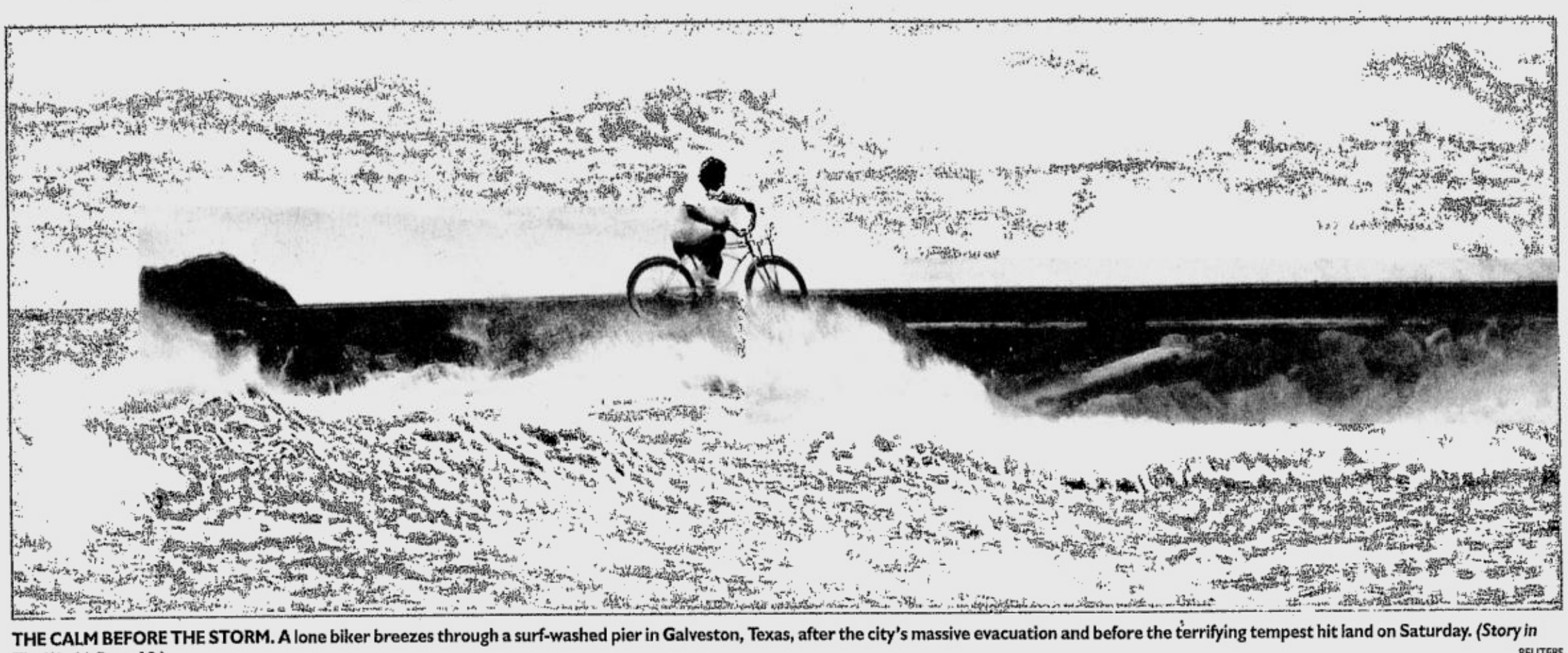


THE CALM BEFORE THE STORM. A lone biker breezes through a surf-washed pier in Galveston, Texas, after the city's massive evacuation and before the terrifying tempest hit land on Saturday. *(Story in The World, Page A8.)* REUTERS

It's a planned takeover

DOJ: No emergency rule, but gov't studying control of key private firms

By Armand N. Nocum, *in Manila*, **Nestor P. Burgos Jr.,** *PDI Visayas Bureau*

EMERGENCY RULE, NO; BUT TAKEOVER, YES.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said he and Speaker Jose de Venecia had been studying the prospect of a government takeover of key private industries—including oil and power firms and air and shipping lines—after the full effect of the global oil crisis shall have hit the country.

But Gonzalez denied reports that President Macapagal-Arroyo had instructed the Department of Justice to draft a presidential proclamation that stopped short of a declaration of martial law, as opposition leaders Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay and former Solicitor General Frank Chavez had claimed.

The INQUIRER reported on Saturday there was a draft proclamation for emergency rule, not martial law.

"You cannot declare martial law without the support of Congress. It will be crazy for the President to declare martial law when we know that Congress does not approve of it, what with the present climate in the Senate," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

He added: "That is not feasible. The government is not naive, not crazy, to do something like that, knowing that it will be rebuffed immediately. It will be more embarrassing for us, and the more the President will lose face. It will further erode whatever remains of [public] confidence in her."

Gonzalez said, however, that he had only sounded out De Venecia, and not the President, on the takeover idea.

He said there was a need to study the matter thoroughly otherwise it could turn into a double-edged sword. For example, he said, although it may be "acceptable to the people," the oil industry could oppose it.

Asked to comment, Chavez said: "It's getting worse. The government wants to use its police power to take over private businesses without any actual basis for doing so. The message is, you have to toe the line or we will seize your businesses."

Reached through his mobile phone in Iloilo, Gonzalez's chief of staff, State Pros

IT'S A PLANNED/ A6

DINKY'S FLASHBACK

'Bring in the muscle, let's bring in the fear'

By Luige A. del Puerto

MALACAÑANG'S MOVE TO DROP the "maximum tolerance" policy in dealing with protest rallies may be a result of an earlier decision by President Macapagal-Arroyo to govern based on "national security," according to former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman.

This shift in the mode of governance was discussed in an executive meeting on July 5, Soliman told the INQUIRER in a phone interview on Friday. She quoted the President as also saying in that meeting, "Let's bring in the muscle. Let's bring in the fear."

Soliman recalled that shortly after Ms Arroyo's public apology on June 27—wherein she said "I am sorry" for her "lapse in judgment" in phoning an election official—a Cabinet meeting was held to discuss how to turn the tide of negative public opinion.

Certain members of the Cabinet and other key officials, Soliman included, had felt that the apology fell short of expectations. (That group, now known collectively as the "Hyatt 10," would eventually resign on July 8 and call on the President to do the same.)

When no "applause" and "sympathy" came her way, Ms Arroyo appeared to regret making the apology, Soliman said.

During the July 5 meeting, Soliman recalled, Ms Arroyo "asked for her computer, and then she said, 'Now what I think we should do ... is that the framework of governance should be [based on] national security.'"

Last Thursday, Ms Arroyo declared that the policy of "maximum tolerance" had been abused, and that she could not allow this to continue.

Soliman said some 90 percent of the Cabinet members were present at the July 5 meeting.

"In our minds, [what the President said] meant using the resources of government to protect and help her survive," Soliman said.

Asked whether Malacañang's decision to wield an iron hand in dealing with protesters was a manifestation of that "mode of governance," she said: "Yes, I think so."

"Why else would they say the protest actions were affecting the economy? The rallies are not [held] every day and [are

BRING/ A6

RP'S 1ST HIGHWAY

Pasig River ferry project afloat again

By Joan Orendain
Contributor

COMMUTERS TO AND FROM KEY POINTS ALL over Metro Manila may have a new mode of air-conditioned public transportation next year—the Pasig River Ferry Service.

When fully operational, the ferry service will have at least 10 boats plying Manila's prime waterway to serve a daily minimum of 28,000 passengers, calling on 14 stations in Manila, Makati, Mandaluyong, Pasig and Marikina.

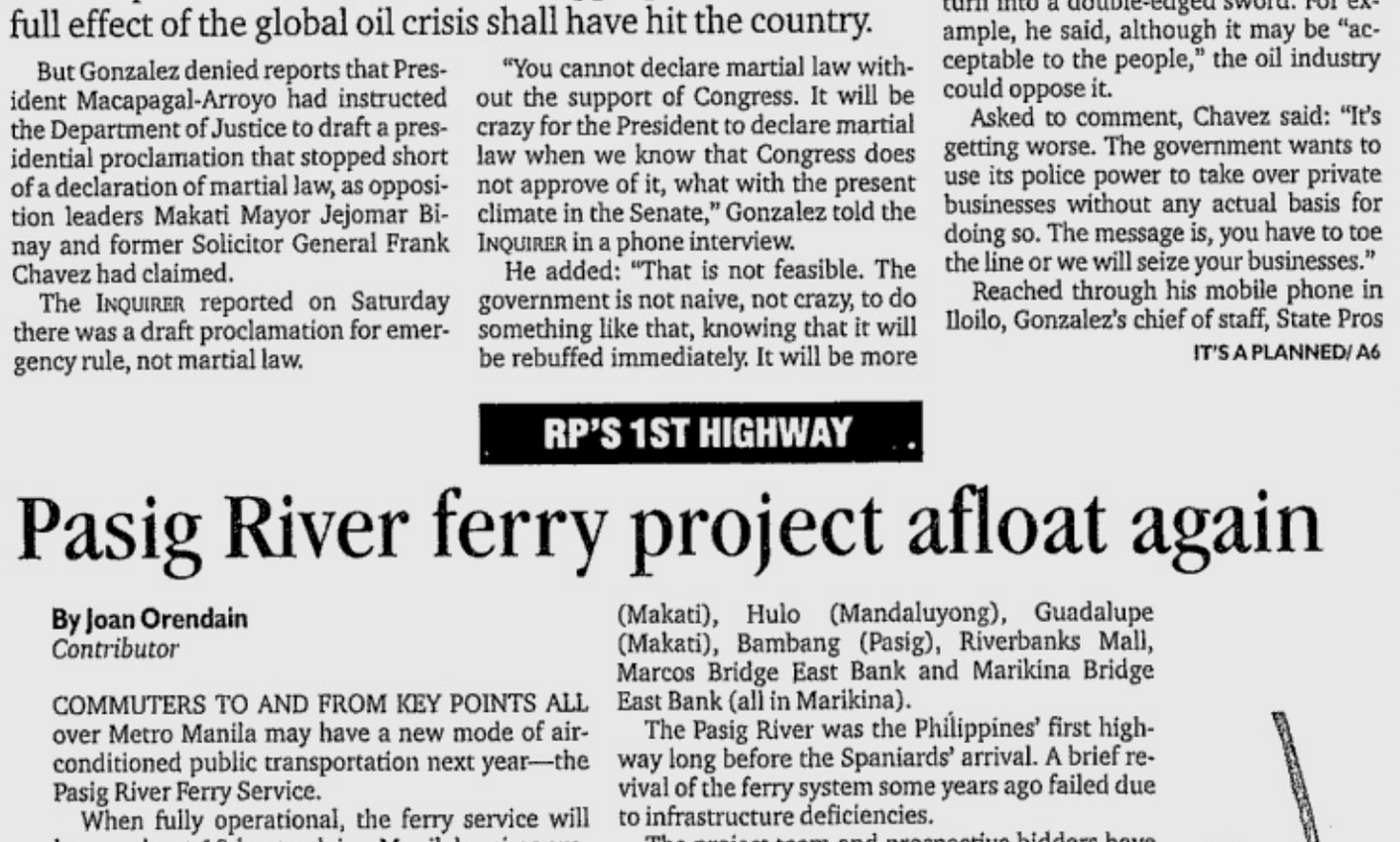
The stations will be located at Plaza Mexico in Intramuros, Escolta, Quezon Bridge, Nagtahan, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Sta. Ana, Lambingan (all in Manila), Valenzuela (Makati), Hulo (Mandaluyong), Guadalupe (Makati), Bambang (Pasig), Riverbanks Mall, Marcos Bridge East Bank and Marikina Bridge East Bank (all in Marikina).

The Pasig River was the Philippines' first highway long before the Spaniards' arrival. A brief revival of the ferry system some years ago failed due to infrastructure deficiencies.

The project team and prospective bidders have agreed in consultative meetings to use twin-hulled catamarans, which they say will be more stable and provide a wider deck and greater comfort than a single-hulled boat.

The boats are estimated to cost from P8 to P10 million each, depending on their size. They will be

PASIG/ A4



Heart doctor advises, inspires colleagues to stay home and serve

Tessa R. Salazar

CARDIOLOGIST WILLIE T. ONG IS NOT just content with helping heart patients live. He has another passion: teaching young doctors "survival techniques"—how to survive in the Philippines.

At a time when thousands of their colleagues are being lured to work in the United States and other Western countries, Ong and his colleagues have launched a movement to convince other doctors that rewards await those who stay home and serve.

Ong is a co-founder of MIND, the Movement of Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors, a non-profit organization that seeks to inspire fresh graduates and medical students to "find their niche" in their own country.

And MIND's members include doctors who find fulfillment in working in depressed villages, in strife-torn areas like Sulu, or in evacuation centers packed with refugees.

Ong, 43, a consultant at the Manila Doctors Hospital and Makati Medical Center, also tells young doctors of the many "options" in life, and that one need not necessarily stick to just being a doctor.

A doctor can venture into clinical

HEART/ A4

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thundersto rm. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CHONA GAIANG, FRI 8:55PM ICH/09/23/05 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Senate to quiz Meco execs on Venable

By Juliet Labog-Javellana, Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

ANOTHER TOP MALACAÑANG OFFICIAL WILL be summoned to the Senate blue ribbon committee investigation of the controversial Palace contract with US lobby firm Venable LLP.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. wants Tomas Alcantara and other officials of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office (Meco) in Taiwan to appear before the committee.

Pimentel said Alcantara, whom he identified as the Meco chair, would be asked to explain reports he brokered the Venable contract and that Meco was the source of the P12.5 million initial payment made to the American lobby firm.

Pimentel said Alcantara, a close adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, would be asked to testify in the face of the refusal of National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales to identify the source of the payment for the $1-million Venable contract and the person who recommended the firm to him.

The government had hired the services of Venable, an American law firm, to lobby for US funding for Philippine projects, including the proposed Charter change.

De facto embassy

Gonzales told the hearing last week that Venable, whose monthly fee was $75,000, was paid three months in advance but claimed he did not know who paid the fee.

Meco serves as the country's de facto embassy in Taiwan, with which the Philippines has no diplomatic relations because of its one-China policy.

No-audit funds

Pimentel noted that the funds of Meco, which is a quasi-public corporation, are exempt from regular audit by the Commission on Audit. The agency used to be under the Office of the President but was transferred to the Department of Finance.

Gonzales, who was cited in contempt by the Senate and ordered detained, is now confined at the Philippine Heart Center under Senate custody.

'Sick in the heart'

He was scheduled to undergo an angioplasty yesterday, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

"He is sick in the heart. I understand today he would undergo angioplasty because 50 percent of his carotid and other arteries are blocked," Gonzalez said.

On Friday, President Arroyo visited Gonzales at the Heart Center.

"She (the President) just checked how he (Gonzales) was doing. And based on our report, Gonzales' health became more stable with the visit," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in an interview over dzXL radio.

Palace appeals anew

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita also checked on Gonzales yesterday morning.

Malacañang yesterday reiterated its appeal to the Senate to release Gonzales, this time for health reasons.

But Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee, and Pimentel said only Gonzales could free himself from the contempt charge and detention.

"The key to his early release is his willingness to tell the truth and answer questions asked of him," Pimentel said.

"As long as he shuts his mouth, I don't think (he can walk away)," Arroyo said.

Habeas corpus petition

Gonzales was cited in contempt for his failure to answer questions about the Venable lobby contract which he entered into.

Gonzales' sister, Violeta Gonzales-Tolentino, has filed a petition for habeas corpus with the Supreme Court, questioning the Senate detention as a gross violation of the Cabinet official's freedom of movement and ability to discharge his official functions.

But Arroyo and Pimentel believed the high court will uphold the contempt powers of the Senate as it had done in the past.

Yuchengco backs out

TAIPAN ALFONSO Yuchengco has declined his nomination to President Macapagal-Arroyo's Consultative Commission (Con-com), one of the more prominent nominees to the body tasked to make Charter change proposals.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Yuchengco cited "personal reasons" in declining the nomination less than a week after his name and those of 32 others were announced as the first among 50 would-be con-com members.

Yuchengco is the second nominee to decline the job after Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte also begged off because of his heavy work schedule. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Tenants' lawyer appeals to Cory

By Norman Bordadora

APPEALING TO HER FAMILY'S sense of honor and justice, the lawyer of Hacienda Luisita's workers asked former President Corazon Aquino yesterday to allow the redistribution of the 6,000-hectare estate to its workers instead of fighting the possible revocation by the government of the stock distribution plan that made the workers stockholders.

Romeo Capulong made the appeal to Aquino, one of the five heirs of the late Don Jose Cojuangco Sr., after Hacienda Luisita Inc. (HLI) counsel Vigor Mendoza said the company would take legal action if the government decides to revoke the stock distribution plan.

The plan, known officially as a "stock distribution option," was approved by the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) in 1989, while Aquino was President, as the Cojuangco heirs' way of complying with the land reform law. Under the scheme, the Cojuangcos' holding company turned over 5,000 hectares of the estate along with other agricultural assets to the newly created HLI and assigned 30 percent of its shares to the plantation's workers while retaining ownership of 70 percent.

Hacienda Luisita is the size of Manila's Rizal Park multiplied 113 times.

"Madame former President Corazon Aquino, in behalf of my clients, we wish to inform you that we are with you in your call for the resignation of, or better yet, the ouster of (President Macapagal-Arroyo)," Capulong said in an interview with the INQUIRER.

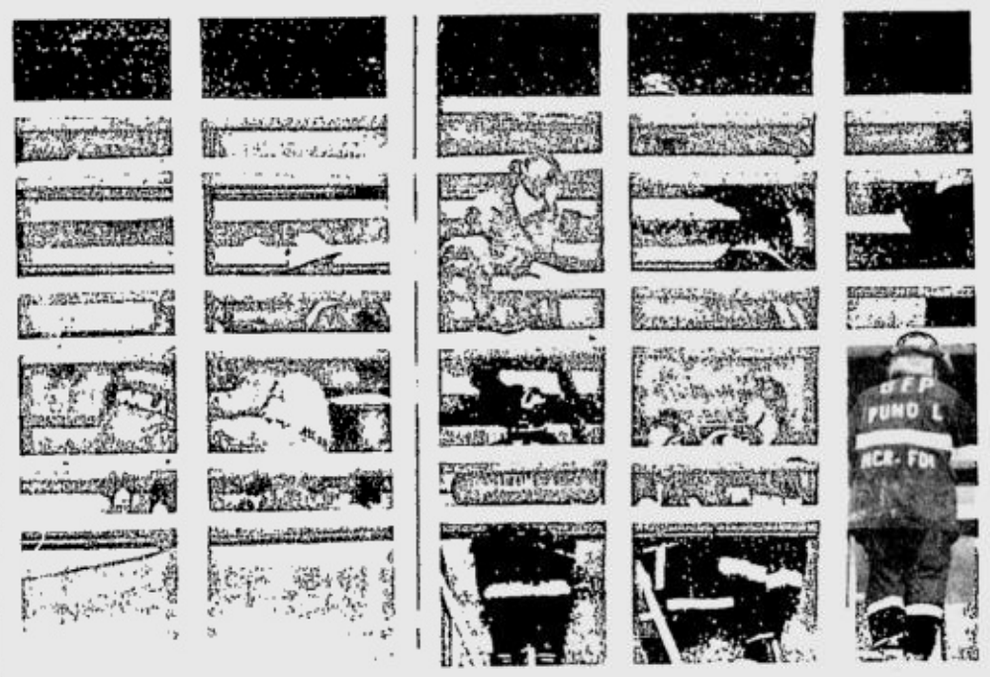
"But please help your farm workers and employees in their quest for overdue justice," he said.

The DAR is expected to announce its recommendation to revoke the stock distribution scheme and redistribute the land to the farm workers and other hacienda employees when the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council meets this week.

Capulong said the DAR must also act on the farm workers' demand for an accounting of the hacienda's profits to determine how much should be turned over to them as farmer-beneficiaries.

He claimed that HLI had received P90 million from the government in exchange for land on which to build the Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway that would connect, among other things, the economic zone in Clark Field in Pampanga to the one in Subic Bay in Zambales.

The DAR must also rule on parcels of hacienda land that had been sold and converted into industrial and commercial estates, Capulong said, adding that the workers were entitled to benefits from these deals, more so if the stock distribution scheme would be declared void.



TOUGH WAY TO PUT OUT A FIRE REM ZAMORA

The baffles may keep the glare of the sun out but not these firemen who, like bees in a hive, clamber up the structure to put out the fire that gutted the 2nd, 3rd and 4th floors of the Bureau of Immigration building in Intramuros yesterday. No one was hurt and important documents were saved, according to officials. *(See story in Metro, Page A15)*

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UP law dean, DepEd exec critical of GMA sacked

By Dona Pazzibugan

THE DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE Philippines College of Law and an undersecretary at the Department of Education, both known critics of President Macapagal-Arroyo, have been replaced under suspicious circumstances, sources at UP and DepEd said.

Raul Pangalangan was booted out as the law dean by the UP Board of Regents despite his having topped a straw vote among the faculty on Thursday, the sources said.

News circulated at the law college yesterday that Pangalangan had been replaced by Salvador Carlota, a senior faculty member, under circumstances that bore the imprint of Malacañang.

Pangalangan, who writes a weekly column for the INQUIRER, was law dean when the UP law faculty issued a statement calling for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation.

Carlota, who did not agree with the resign statement as he did not believe that the law college should get involved in politics, was reportedly recommended by the Villaraza law firm, known to be the lawyers of the First Couple.

The militant Alliance of Concerned Teachers yesterday denounced the dismissal of Juan Miguel Luz, the DepEd undersecretary for finance, who was allegedly dismissed via a Malacañang press announcement.

Luz recently returned to Malacañang several postdated checks worth P15 million intended for a supposed scholarship program of Zambales Rep. Antonio Diaz, thereby exposing Malacañang's alleged bribery of House members to influence them to dismiss the impeachment complaint against the President.

"Undersecretary Luz thwarted Malacañang's attempt to use the DepEd as a conduit for bribery. Now he's being made to pay the price," said ACT chair Antonio Tinio.

According to the sources, the Board of Regents set aside the faculty straw vote in which Pangalangan got 46 votes, associate dean Danilo Concepcion got 8 and Marvic Leonen, the vice president for legal affairs, got 3.

It then appointed Carlota, who was not included in the voting as he had not been nominated.

ACT said Luz's dismissal was a "naked display of vindictiveness against a DepEd official who refused to play along" and "clear proof of the corrupting influence" of Malacañang on the education sector.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told reporters that a "thank you" letter had been sent to Luz who, since he was a career officer, would get another posting.

Luz is a brother of Makati Business Club spokesperson Guillermo Luz, another known critic of Ms Arroyo.

Maid's remains home today

By Volt Contreras

THE REMAINS OF SLAIN FILIPINO DOMESTIC helper Jane Parangan Lapuebla are arriving from Singapore at 8:40 tonight, over two weeks after her gruesome murder allegedly in the hands of fellow maid and compatriot Guen Aguilar.

The body, accompanied by the victim's husband Crusaldo, will arrive at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport on Singapore Airlines flight SQ 76, the Department of Foreign Affairs said yesterday.

Philippine Ambassador to Singapore Belen Anota said Singaporean authorities released the body upon completion of an autopsy Friday that was observed by Filipino pathologists Dr. Cesar Bisquerra of the National Bureau of Investigation and Dr. Raquel Fortun of the Philippine General Hospital, as well as NBI Interpol Executive Director Claro de Castro.

Also on the flight home will be Jane's mother Paulina and aunt Sally Parangan.

The Philippine Embassy in Singapore arranged a 6 p.m. Mass for Lapuebla yesterday, to which members of the Filipino community in the city-state were invited, the DFA said.

Lapuebla, 26, will be buried in her home province of Nueva Vizcaya, the DFA added.

Aguilar, 29, has been arrested and charged with the Sept. 7 killing and dismembering of Lapuebla's body.

Aguilar is being held at Singapore's Changi Prison and will undergo a state-ordered psychiatric assessment next week, her lawyer said Friday. *With an AP report*

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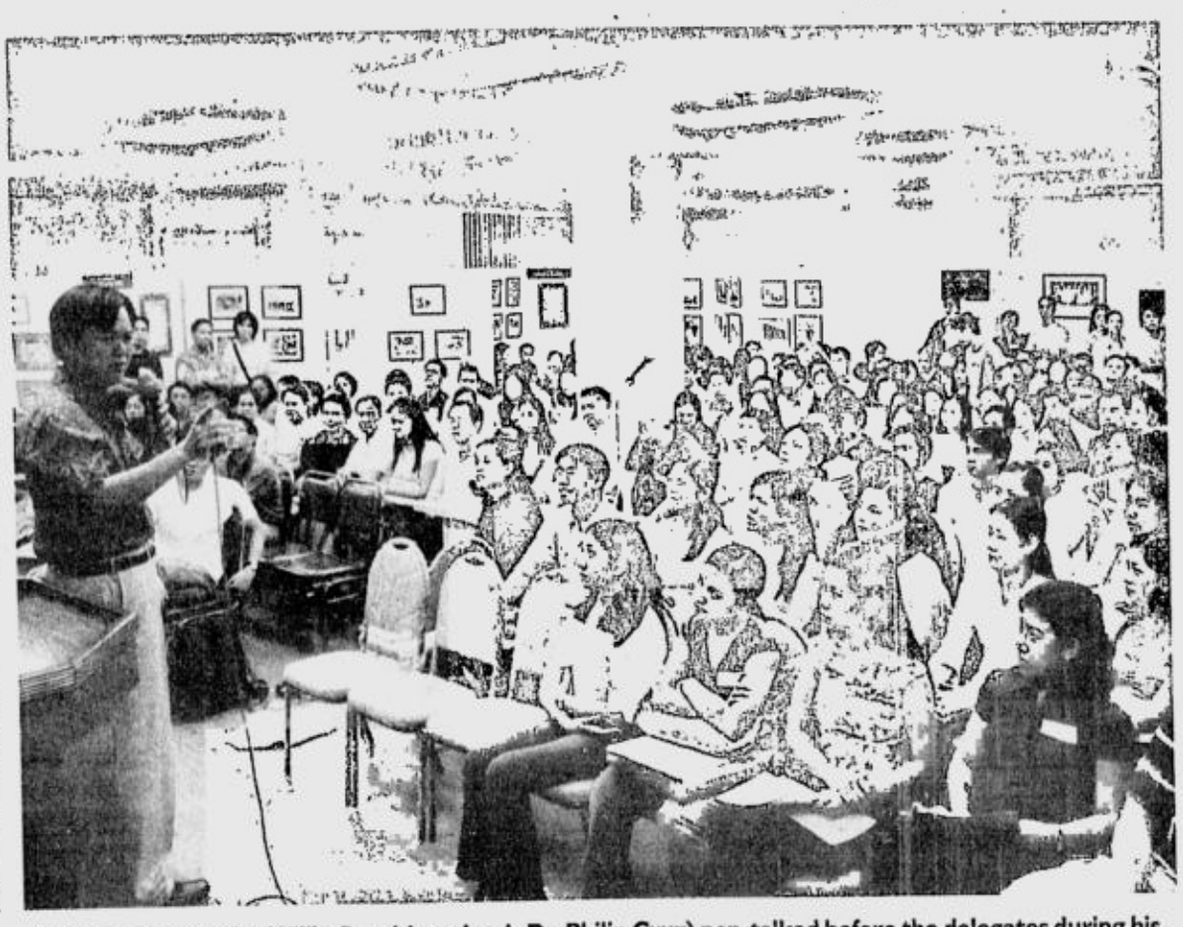
Heart doctor advises, inspires colleagues ...

From page A1

practice, teaching, research, invention, getting involved in pharmaceuticals or in the medical business, in laboratories, information technology, or he can even go into writing, Ong said.

There are even doctors who dabble in the arts, he said.

"They should know how to diversify themselves. I'm trying to prime their minds that when they graduate, they wouldn't get the P50,000-a-month salary [they may be aiming at]," he said. "As early as the second or third year of medicine, [I tell them] to start looking for their niche."



MIND co-founder Dr. Willie Ong (the other is Dr. Philip Cruz) pep-talked before the delegates during his group's first nationwide convention held at the Co Tec Tai Medican Museum in Pasay City last May. Ong says his group functions as a support for doctors who are frustrated and confused about their careers. It also aims to inspire new medical graduates "to find their niche."

Patients are poorer now

"The reason doctors should multitask today is that patients are now poorer than ever. If you're going to (pin your income solely on their capacity to pay), then they cannot do that for you anymore. The middle class has become poor. Those who were once in private rooms can now only afford the ward section. Those who were once in the charity ward, we don't see them anymore," he said.

He said that for this reason, doctors had to look for other means to survive.

Members of MIND, which Ong co-founded with Dr. Philip Cruz, find strength in sharing their stories and hearing other young doctors' small triumphs and travails.

Migrating doctors

MIND members assert that they understand why some of their colleagues leave the Philippines. However, they also cite examples of other doctors who have found their "calling" in their own country.

The Philippine Medical Association says that of the country's 100,000 registered doctors, 30 percent have been lured to work in North America. And the migration continues.

In 2004 and 2005, a total of 2,347 medical doctors took the nursing board exams in the hope of landing a job as nurses in the United States. And an estimated 4,000 doctors are currently studying to be nurses.

MIND was formed March 20 this year and has held two conventions, the second last week.

Its first nationwide convention was held at the Co Tec Tai Medical Museum in Pasay in May. For last week's convention, some 140 doctors and medical students from different parts of the country attended. Almost all student council presidents (medical student leaders) from UP, UST, La Salle, UERM, Fatima, and other schools were there. A senior doctor, former UP chancellor Marita Reyes, also graced the occasion.

Showing they care

Expenses for the venue, the meals, and the medical books used during the conventions were shouldered by Co Tec Tai (Ong's father) and Tecson Alonso (Ong's brother in law). Ong's wife Liza is also a doctor.

Other doctors volunteered to shoulder the airfare expenses of doctors from the provinces.

MIND's network further widened when doctors Mike Muin and Jojo Ferrer, who formed the PinoyMD website with 800 other doctors, created http://mind.pinoy.md. And with Web networks, such as Friendster spreading the word, MIND was able to reach over 5,000 doctors in just a few months.

Ong receives up to 10 letters a day and numerous email messages from medical students and young doctors who vent their frustrations, hardships, and their ideals.

Some letters MIND has received came from doctors who wrote that they couldn't afford to buy equipment as basic as a stethoscope or a blood pressure monitor sphygmomanometer.

A doc with 4 kids

A note to Ong from a female doctor rearing four children reads: "Sorry to write you now but we are having a personal crisis. To be honest, I'm questioning my values and priorities because I now want to go abroad. My life here continues to worsen. It seems like I can't stay anymore.

"I'm currently working two jobs at the same time - teaching medicine and working at the health center, and I'm still looking for a possible third job.

"Nanliliit ako pag naiisip ko ang mga ginagawa mong efforts at ako parang walang silbi. Pag nagtuturo ako parang napakahirap makita ang mga mata ng mga estudyante ko. Punong puno ng pag-asa at idealistic pa, pero ako mismo disillusioned na (I feel

insignificant when I think of all your efforts. When I teach, it's so hard to look straight in the eyes of my students. I see them full of hope and idealism, and yet here I am already disillusioned)."

Ong wrote back, saying he would support whatever her decision was.

Life as a writer

Ong himself has found himself writing a preferred field, having been encouraged to write by Dr. Raffy Castillo, a health columnist for the Inquirer.

Ong has published six editions of the "Medicine Blue Book", an instructional handout on treating common and life-threatening diseases. The book, which he started in 1995 and updates every two years, also indicates the cheapest medicines available in the Philippines.

The books have already sold 100,000 copies. They are are co-authored by wife Anna Liza, Dr. Juan Martin J. Magsanoc and RN Rhoda R. Redulla.

Feeling isolated

On the looming medical "brain drain" crisis, Willie said he had discussed the situation with MIND members and had received hundreds of letters and e-mails from concerned young doctors.

Willie has urged established medical practitioners to give importance to young medical professionals under their helm. He described young doctors as "colleagues and not servants."

"Give the young ones [the opportunity] to practice in your area. Be open in accepting new applicants. Young doctors are the future of our country. It's a simple

but neglected fact," he said.

A lobby group?

The letters that Willie and MIND have been getting are not all notes of support. A few say that MIND is not providing anything concrete.

"You cannot raise salaries. Why should we listen? Kaya mo ba itaas ang sweldo namin to P40,000?", one mail read.

Ong takes these criticisms in stride. "At least,

I'm already preparing. Maybe we can gain an audience with the President [Macapagal-Arroyo]. Maybe we can form a lobby group."

Ong hopes one day that his small group could put up a foundation for doctors, which they would then call FIND (Foundation for Idealistic and Nationalistic Doctors). FIND would primarily look for free essential medical equipment, such as stethoscopes and blood pressure apparatus, for young doctors.

They chose to stay home

After the Sept. 17 sharing, the young doctors and medical students of MIND embraced each other, in a reassuring gesture that doctors are human, too, and yearn for the same things everyone else does.

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And they can't leave them behind.

Corrections

IN "WITHOUT Batting an Eyelash" on Sept. 23, businessman Randy Limjuco was mistakenly identified as Randy Rufino in one photograph. Karen Macasaet's name was omitted from the caption for the FCCP Bazaar Committee picture. We apologize for the errors.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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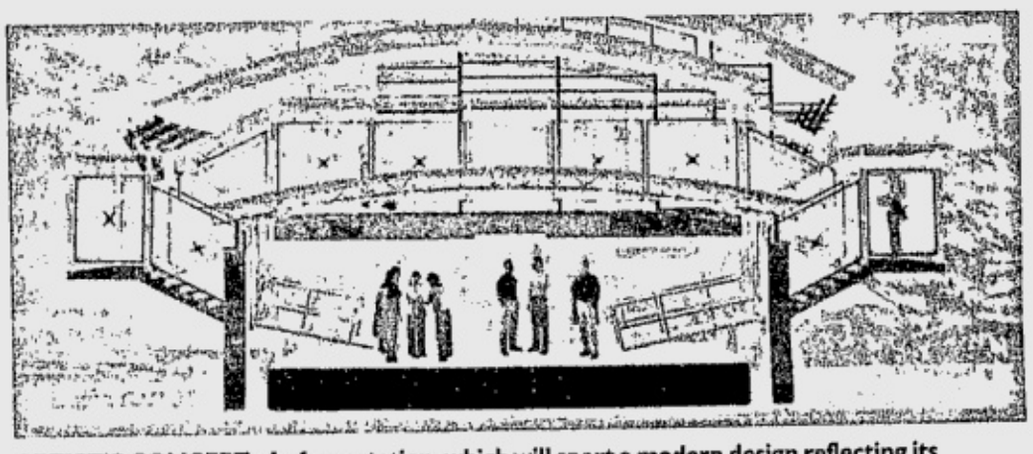

ARTIST'S CONCEPT of a ferry station, which will sport a modern design reflecting its locality and historical importance. Landing platforms are floating pontoons that will adjust to tide levels.

Pasig River ferry project ...

From page A1

locally manufactured of fiber-reinforced plastic, and will each carry from 50 to 100 passengers.

February opening

Project proponents say they are pushing hard for a soft opening of the ferry service mid-February next year, initially with five stations—Plaza Mexico, PUP, Lambingan, Hulo and Guadalupe—and a minimum of five ferry boats.

[A research into PDI archives shows that a previous attempt to launch a Metro ferry transport system failed because of complaints that the stench of the Pasig at the time clung to the clothes of passengers. A *banca*-type ferry system also did not work because the boats were too small and too low in the water so that passengers could smell the polluted water. – PDI Research].

The new ferry project is a tripartite effort of the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), and the Metro Manila Development Authority.

The integration of relevant government institutions resolves the usual obstacle of the private sector having to deal with a number of government agencies. The ferry service operator who wins the bid to operate it will only have to deal with one entity.

Public sector agencies and representatives from the private sector comprise the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, the project team that will oversee the ferry service.

The team is composed of Transportation Undersecretary Agustin R. Bengzon as chair, with MMDA Undersecretary Cesar Lacuna, PRRC Executive Director Bingle Gutierrez and private sector representative Chito Macapagal of Unilever General Manager for Corporate Development as members.

The technical working group assisting the project team has Philippine Coast Guard Commander Ronilo Hermes Bacolod as chair and Regina Reyes Rara as legal adviser.

Proponents are confident that the revival of the river ferry service will succeed, this time.

All-weather stations

"Ferry rates have been deregulated. PRRC is constructing the ferry stations and has improved the environment of the Pasig River, and the ferry operator will only have to deal with one group for its operation," according to Bengzon.

The provision of all-weather and air-conditioned ferry stations is intended to resolve a major infrastructure hurdle. The previous ferry service did not provide any stations at all.

With PRRC constructing the ferry stations, which are estimated to cost from P6 to P7 million each, the ferry service operator can focus its investment on building the ferry boats.

Funds for building the ferry stations are sourced from an Asian Development Bank loan earmarked for the rehabilitation of the Pasig. The stations will be rented out to whichever ferry service operator wins the bid.

The Plaza Mexico station will have "a heritage architecture" while other ferry stations will sport a modern design reflecting their locality and historical importance. They will also have ticket booths, comfort rooms and security features.

Adjusting to the tides

All landing platforms are floating pontoons that will adjust to changes in the tide levels for passenger safety and convenience.

Extensive consultations were conducted with prospective bidders for both the construction of the terminals and the operation of the ferry service.

"We wanted to provide a balance between regulation and development," Bengzon says. "We don't want to straightjacket the proponents, but at the same time, offer guidelines to ensure a safe and efficient operation."

The deregulated rates allowing the ferry service operator to price services based on the market situation will ensure the viability of the operation.

The Maritime Industry Authority (Marina) has designated the Pasig River to be a missionary route. As such, only one operator will be selected to run the ferry service for five years, free of competition.

Fighting pollution

Existing river crossings will be allowed to continue operating but Marina will cease approving new applications in the interest of safety.

The Pasig River's environmental issues are also being addressed by the PRRC together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the MMDA through a program intended to prevent river pollution and improper disposal of waste.

The team is also relocating informal settlers on the river banks and building linear parks on the cleared areas.

"The implementation of the Pasig River Ferry Service is proceeding smoothly," according to Bengzon. "Bidding of five stations have been initiated, of which three have been awarded... It is expected that the winning bid for the operation of the service will be determined by the end of September."

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WHO: RP bird flu-free but for how long?

THOUGH THE PHILIPPINES HAS MANAGED to remain free of the avian or bird flu virus that has been ravaging poultry populations in other Asian countries, health experts are not sure how long the country can remain immune or how well it can cope with a bird flu pandemic.

"What will happen is difficult to predict," Dr. Jean Marc Olive, country representative of the World Health Organization, told a press conference Friday.

Probably the only thing certain in the event of a pandemic is that it would cause a "considerable strain" on a country's health system, especially one which is already short of medical professionals, Olive said.

"It's not yet happening. But it will probably happen one day, and that's the reason why the WHO is helping countries prepare for this eventuality," he said.

Bird flu is a contagious disease caused by the influenza virus type A that commonly occurs in birds, especially poultry, and that has been transmitted to other animals and to humans. In its severe form, the disease is rapidly fatal, causing death in both birds and humans.

Erupt at anytime

International health experts have warned that a bird flu pandemic could erupt in Asia at anytime and kill millions of people because of the unprecedented geographic spread and impact of the current outbreak in poultry.

There is the potential peril from a mutation of the avian influenza virus to a form that could be transmitted by humans, according to experts.

Bird flu has been ravaging poultry populations in large swathes in Asia since 2003, leaving 63 people dead mostly in Vietnam and Thailand, and resulting in the deaths of tens of millions of birds.

Olive said the Philippines should be particularly on guard during the months of October to January when migratory birds move from north to south.

The WHO says migratory birds can carry the virus long distance. Epidemics occur when domesticated birds like chicken and turkey come in contact with them.

Every 20-30 years

Olive said the situation was rife for an avian influenza pandemic, meaning the deadly virus would be present in every continent in the world. He said pandemics occur ever 20 to 30 years.

"We are due for one. When will it start? We don't know. It may be tomorrow or in a year," he said.

Last June, local experts detected the presence of a bird flu strain in ducks in a farm in Bulacan. Subsequent tests showed it was low-risk, not the deadly H5N1 strain.

Dr. Luningning Villa, a government expert on emerging diseases, yesterday said preparations were now concentrated on preventing the entry of the H5N1.

She said measures were in place to cull infected chicken and prevent the virus from spreading to their human handlers, should local infection occur.

In case of human infection, she said referral hospitals were ready to handle cases.

Among these are the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine in Muntinlupa, Lung Center in Quezon City, San Lazaro Hospital in Manila, Davao Medical Center, Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital in Cebu, and government regional hospitals. *Christian V. Esguerra*

Oil firms hike prices by 50¢

OIL COMPANIES YESTERDAY RAISED PUMP prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter, citing escalating oil prices in the world market.

Caltex Philippines Inc. increased its prices at 12:01 a.m., followed by Eastern Petroleum Corp. at 5 a.m., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m. and Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. at 6 p.m.

Flying V will raise fuel prices by the same levels at 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

Caltex and Shell also increased the prices of their liquefied petroleum gas by 50 centavos per kilogram.

The oil firms blamed the latest price adjustment on the skyrocketing prices of oil in the world market.

Data from the Department of Energy showed that the regional benchmark Dubai crude reached a September average of $56.65 a barrel from $56.60 a barrel in August.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also soared to an unprecedented average of $92.79 a barrel in the first 22 days of the month, up by almost $20 from the August average of $73.19 a barrel.

MOPS-based diesel likewise surged to a Sept. 1-22 average of $79.26 a barrel, jumping by almost $6 from last month's average of $73.82 a barrel.

The international contract price of liquefied petroleum gas also increased by $36 to $440.20 per metric ton (MT) this month from only $404.20 per MT in August and $400.10 per MT in July.

Since the start of the year, gasoline prices have risen 19 times or a total of P9.85 per liter, while diesel fuel prices have gone up 18 times or a total of P9.05 per liter. Cooking gas prices have also risen seven times or a total of P4.15 per kilogram.

Premium unleaded gasoline now retails at between P34.55 and P35.42 per liter, diesel at between P30.79 and P33.35 per liter, kerosene at between P32.10 and P33.50 per liter, and LPG at between P389 and P451 per 11-kilogram cylinder. *Abigail L. Ho*

VICTORY IN CHINA

Pinoys bag silver with corals-saving plan

By Elvira Mata

BEIJING—A STARFISH-LIKE STRUC-ture aimed at restoring damaged coral reefs and a design for an agricultural campus in Batanes won for four Filipinos $55,000 worth of prizes at the First Holcim Awards for sustainable construction (Asia-Pacific region) held at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse here Thursday.

Businessman Ronald Rodriguez of Cagayan de Oro City and marine biologist Lemuel R. Alfeche of Misamis Oriental received the silver prize and $50,000 for their project called "Concrete Substrates for Accelerated Coral Restoration."

The two built a multi-legged structure they call an "acanthasia," resembling a gigantic starfish with eight to 10 arms, designed to attract and promote the growth of corals.

Artessa Nicola D. Saldivar-Sali, 25, a teacher of civil engineering at the University of the Philippines, and Aaron Lecciones, 21, a UP architecture student, collected an encouragement prize and $5,000 for collaborating on a design of an "Ivatan Agricultural Campus for Itbayat, Batanes."

The Holcim Awards, a global competition sponsored by the Holcim Foundation, is aimed at encouraging sustainable responses to the technological, environmental, socio-economic and cultural challenges affecting building and construction.

The gold prize and $100,000 were won for a design for a clan's settlement regeneration in Hangzhou, China, while the bronze prize and $25,000 went to "Air Suit," a housing renovation project in Hiroshima, Japan.

Silver-prize winners Alfeche and Rodriguez will automatically qualify for the Holcim Awards global competition to be held in Bangkok in 2006.

Alfeche, 43, a scuba diver and instructor at Mindanao Polytechnic State College, said his team's project provides an ecologically sound way to regenerate corals and increase the number of fish in coastal communities.

"We used concrete substrates found to be biologically friendly to corals because of the calcium carbonate found in cement," he said, adding that he could not have done it without Rodriguez, the owner of a company that sells construction materials.

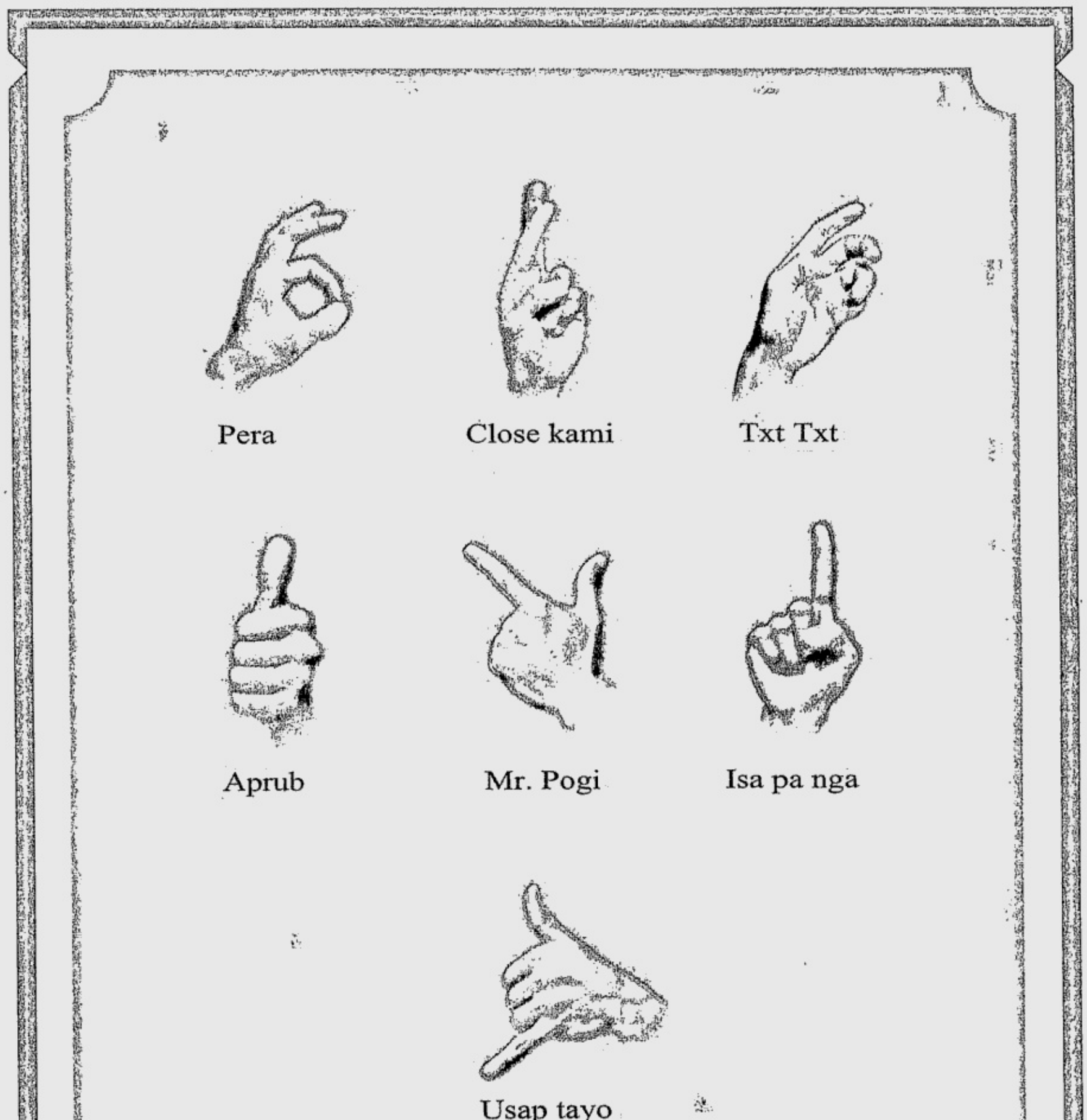
The Holcim jury cited the entry for "[displaying] ingenuity in tackling a highly complex issue while offering a modest but aesthetically refined design solution," and for convincingly demonstrating "the value of simple yet intelligent tools that are affordable, require little technical expertise and can be easily replicated in different contexts."

It also commended the project design for its "adaptability" to the needs of local communities and for its sensitivity to economic issues.

Saldivar-Sali and Lecciones won one of three encouragement prizes given to young professionals.

Saldivar-Sali, vice president of the family-owned Geotecnica engineering firm, said the company was commissioned in 2003 by the local government of Batanes to build an irrigation dam for Itbayat island.

"Because of its location and hilly terrain, Batanes cannot grow rice and vegetables. Basic foodstuffs are shipped from Luzon. The Batanes government wanted to grow crops in Itbayat, the only island which is flat. So they decided to build an irrigation dam so they could start planting rice," Saldivar-Sali said.



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PNP: No permit, no rally; but that's not martial law

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POlice yesterday said it would arrest members of the opposition who insist on holding rallies without a permit, but denied such an action was a prelude to martial law.

"We are just implementing law enforcement for the rule of law to prevail. That's definitely not martial law," PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said in an interview.

Interpreting the "calibrated preemptive response" that Malacañang had ordered in lieu of maximum tolerance toward protest demonstrations, Bataoil said the arrests would not be carried out before the actual rallies.

Asked whether the PNP was aware of a supposed draft presidential proclamation on emergency rule, he said: "You better ask the DOJ (Department of Justice). As far as the PNP is concerned, our hands are full in the implementation of existing laws.

"We're just focused on our law enforcement function."

'Tyranny of Minority'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye twitted the opposition for supposedly going overboard in reacting to the government's new policy.

"These reactions, such as the fear of blood being spilled, are exaggerated. We really have no intention ... We just want to protect the rights of the majority," Bunye told dzXL radio.

He added: "The government's preemptive calibrated response does not mean that it is poised for the exercise of martial powers. Maximum tolerance has been abused to the point that [demonstrators] no longer recognize authority."

Bunye said that if the government did not implement the rules regulating mass protest actions, "we will have what we call the tyranny of the minority, the noisy minority."

"We are a democracy. More people do not like these rallies. Most of our citizens just want to go on with our normal lives," he pointed out, adding:

"The constitutional avenues of protest are open to the people, but the government is keeping its option of enforcing all laws that will protect commerce, mobility, jobs, livelihood, and the overall peace of mind of the community."

On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced that the government would enforce a calibrated preemptive response toward protest rallies.

The next day, Sen. Sergio Osmeña warned: "Violence begets violence. There will be blood in the streets."

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay also described President Macapagal- Arroyo's get-tough policy as "tantamount" to martial law.

Dispersal

Bataoil said the calibrated preemptive response meant that any antigovernment rally organized without a permit would be "dispersed in accordance with police engagement rules using crowd disturbance management units."

"We'll arrest the leaders and those who persist on holding their ground, and charges will be filed against them," he said.

But he said the PNP would "observe human rights" during dispersal operations.

The PNP's calibrated preemptive response also includes "monitoring" any planned rallies and talking with the organizers "to discourage them from pushing through [with it]," he said.

Asked if rally leaders would be arrested during the planning stage, Bataoil said: "[We will make arrests] only based on specific violations of the law, such as conducting a rally without a permit or causing damage to property, or whatever violations are created in the process."

'Dictator'

The fisherfolk group Pamalakaya said it had changed its slogan from "Oust GMA" to "Oust the GMA dictatorship."

Said its chair Fernando Hicap: "Political slogans should capture the political situation. The situation states that we are under undeclared martial law, and so the right attitude and propaganda is to oust the Arroyo dictatorship."

According to Hicap, Malacañang officially put the country in a state of "undeclared martial law" last Sept. 21, or 33 years after Ferdinand Marcos imposed martial rule, when it announced its calibrated preemptive response policy.

"[Ms Arroyo] has revived the Marcos dictatorship both in flesh and in spirit. This nation is under de facto martial law under the stewardship of a female dictator," Hicap said.

The peasant group Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said the President's new policy meant only that she had banned legal forms of dissent.

According to KMP president Danilo Ramos, Ms Arroyo "can now be considered the biggest threat to national security by essentially banning legal forms of dissent and planning to destroy legal militant organizations."

"We will not be surprised if the ranks of the New People's Army will swell because now its most effective recruiter is the President herself," Ramos said.

New wave of protests

In Baguio City, leaders of militant groups said the new policy on demonstrations was meant to stop more protest actions.

"[We] expected it because a new wave of protests is in the offing and [Ms Arroyo] wants to dampen it with a crackdown," said Bayan Muna national vice chair Manuel Loste.

Joan Carling, chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said Ms Arroyo's threat to stop street protests was a "direct violation" of the fundamental freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

She said militant groups would continue to criticize Ms Arroyo's "anti-people policies" through street protests.

Human rights lawyer Neri Colmenares, spokesperson of the Committee for the Defense of Liberties (Codal), said the President had started attacking her critics so she could maximize the use of force.

"The problem is [Ms Arroyo] has equated herself with the state. She considers the attacks against her as a destabilization attempt," Colmenares said at a forum marking the 33rd anniversary of the imposition of martial law.

"At the rate she is going, she will surpass the record of Marcos on human rights violation cases," he said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr. in Manila; Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Ecop warns on non-intervention by gov't in labor disputes

By Jerome Aning

THE EMPLOYERS CONFEDERation of the Philippines yesterday warned of havoc on the country's economy if Congress passes a proposed law stripping the government of its power to intervene in labor disputes where national interest is involved.

"One cannot fail to imagine the havoc that would befall the fragile economy of the country as well as the life, safety and health of affected people if strikes staged in industries like power, oil, communications, banking, transportation, food supply, and hospitals where the settlement and duration [of labor disputes] are left to attrition and the staying power of the parties," Ecop president Rene Soriano said.

Party-list representatives in the House have filed a bill seeking to repeal Article 263(g) of the Labor Code that grants the Department of Labor and Employment power to assume jurisdiction over labor disputes where the national interest is at stake and to have them compulsorily arbitrated.

They also seek to repeal a provision that gives the President the authority to determine which industry is vital to the national interest and to order government intervention.

"The repeal of the provision is uncalled for. [Its exercise by the DOLE chief] is vital to economic and social stability and to life, personal safety and health," Soriano said.

The bills' authors—Representatives Crispin Beltran and Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis, Teodoro Casiño, Satur Ocampo and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, and Liza Largoza-Maza of Gabriela—said the labor secretary's power to intervene in disputes is used to curtail the workers' right to strike and forcibly disband picket lines.

In seeking the repeal, the solons said they wanted to avoid a repeat of the massacre of workers at Hacienda Luisita in Tarlac last year when the DOLE assumed jurisdiction over a dispute at the estate's sugar mill and ordered a police-military force to disperse the striking workers.

But Soriano argued that the assumption of power is important to prevent the outbreak of violence. He said the DOLE takeover of several disputes in the past often prevented the standoffs from getting worse and subversives from infiltrating the workers' ranks.

The Ecop president pointed out that neighboring countries such as Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand have laws that curtail strikes when they threaten to harm the economy or stability of the country.

This was one reason the three countries achieved high levels of sustained growth and development way ahead of the Philippines, he added.

It's a planned takeover, not emergency rule

From page A1

ecutor I Benny Nicdao, said there was no basis for Chavez's statement that it was he who had drafted the supposed proclamation.

"I was surprised [on reading the reports]. *"Kinilabutan ako* (My hair stood on end)," he said.

Nicdao, 45, said he had "the highest regard" for Chavez but the latter had been "misinformed."

He clarified that he was part of a two-member "review team" formed by Gonzalez to study "available options in the Constitution" on the possible declaration of a "national economic emergency."

He said the other member of the team was First Provincial Prosecutor Jimmy Umpa.

Nicdao said Gonzalez wanted them to research on measures to address the worsening impact of the continuing global increase in oil prices and preempt the effects on the people when the expanded value-added tax (VAT) law is implemented.

"What we have are research papers, not a draft proclamation," said Nicdao.

Public interest

Gonzalez said the DOJ was studying the "principle" behind Section 17, Article 12 of the Constitution which states that: "In times of national emergency, when the public interest so requires, the state may, during the emergency and under reasonable terms prescribed by it, temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

He explained that "in times of great national crisis," the government could temporarily take over a vital industry like the oil industry "in order to protect the interest of the country."

"That was what we were studying, not martial law," he said. "If there will be martial law tomorrow, I will resign."

Gonzalez said he had initiated the study on his own when the global oil crisis started to affect local oil prices.

"In extreme emergencies—like the peso hitting P80 to the dollar or gas selling at P50 per liter—we will be forced to do something about it. We must prepare for contingencies," he said.

He also said the government should be ready for problems such as power outages and, if needed, to take over power firms like the Manila Electric Co. (Meralco).

Gonzalez said they were also eyeing the takeover of shipping and air lines and operating them temporarily.

Motives obvious

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said the Palace should think twice before declaring emergency rule: "They should learn from history and not repeat it. I don't think our people will allow it. It is, to say the least, unacceptable, and we will vigorously oppose any such move."

Escudero expressed doubt over Gonzalez's claim that what he was working on was meant only to address the oil crisis.

"For oil prices or getting back at certain people who went against the President? The motivations for their actions are too obvious to even state. I guess it's payback time," he said.

Parañaque Rep. Roilo Golez said the Palace might be panicking because the political crisis had not abated.

'Academic research'

He said it would not be good for the government to simply be "reactive" to emergency situations.

Chavez had said the draft proclamation would "invoke the powers of the Commander in Chief to secure national security and interest" and would "effect the arrest of people critical of the government and causing public disorder."

But Nicdao said his and Umpa's "academic research" dealt with "an economic emergency, not military rule."

He said they were studying pertinent decisions of the Supreme Court and other jurisprudence on national emergencies, calamities and national disasters.

Asked if their work was on the instructions of the President, Nicdao said it was only on Gonzalez's initiative.

"The secretary is concerned with the impact on the economic situation of the people," he said.

Nicdao said he and Umpa had been conducting their studies for a week and Gonzalez did not give them a deadline.

He said Gonzalez would be the first to protest the declaration of martial law because the latter was also a victim of martial law.

Nicdao said he was unaware who among his staff Chavez was referring to as the source of the report. "It might be caused by intrigues in the DOJ," he said.

If indeed there was such a draft proclamation, Nicdao said, "who am I to draft such an important policy decision?"

'Far-fetched idea'

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an adviser of the President's, said the alleged plan for emergency rule was "a far-fetched idea floated by the minority to alienate the administration from the people."

He said that while the public might be frustrated by the slow pace of reforms and might be tempted to tolerate emergency rule if it could help catch criminals, "14 years of martial law have taught us that this is not the solution."

Businessman Raul T. Concepcion said the President did not need emergency powers now because she was back in control of the situation.

"Her words and actions are those of a fully confident woman. She has regained momentum," Concepcion said.

Philippine Exporters Confederation Inc. president Sergio Ortiz-Luis concurred that Ms Arroyo was in control and that she had very broad support, including from the Church.

He said the reports of the President getting emergency powers were "wild," considering that it could rattle the cozy relations between the administration and the military.

"It's not easy to impose emergency rule under the present rules. More importantly, the President is not even sure whether the military will follow her. It could lead to some dissension in the ranks, which she has so far successfully avoided," Ortiz-Luis said in a phone interview.

Even the use of emergency powers to contain the oil crisis is unnecessary, Concepcion said.

He said the government had all the tools at its disposal to minimize the impact of the oil crisis, such as requiring all oil firms to explain their price adjustments and preventing collusion among the big players.

'Political suicide'

Vice President Noli de Castro said he would be the first to oppose martial law should the President declare it.

But he said he did not believe that Ms Arroyo was contemplating such a move because it would be "political suicide" on her part.

Lawmakers also weighed in on the issue.

Sen. Joker Arroyo said the reports were doubtful and should be ignored. He said the Arroyo administration, with all its problems, would be a "bumbling fool" to use emergency powers akin to martial law.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. also dismissed the reports as "pure hot air" meant to scare the opposition.

But opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said: "GMA is courting either a revolution by the people, a military coup, or both. She cheated, she stole, she lied. Now she bullies the people. She really must go."

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan said he would not be surprised if the report was "a trial balloon floated by some people close to the President to test the waters and see if the public reaction would be adverse or not."

He said that given Ms Arroyo's sagging popularity, her advisers were probably "emboldened to consider desperate measures to ensure their principal's hold on power."

Sen. Ralph Recto said nothing in Ms Arroyo's breeding, upbringing or training suggested that she was susceptible to the call of the mailed fist.

"As an economist she knows that an emergency rule brings Category 5 political disturbance that would blow away the economic reforms she has planted," he said.

"As a [member of a] family victimized by martial law, she knows that an ex-president will turn in his Libingan [ng mga Bayani] grave if his daughter will ape the methods of his tormentor," Recto added, referring to Ms Arroyo's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal.

'Creeping martial law'

Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano said Malacañang was "implementing a creeping martial law."

"There's no formal declaration but they're using destabilization and a power grab scare to slowly but methodically curtail civil and political rights," he said.

But administration lawmakers dismissed the reported plan for emergency rule as "baloney."

Lakas Representatives Exequiel Javier (Antique) and Monico Puentevella (Bacolod City) said the alleged plan was another opposition ploy to alarm and agitate the public.

They said that the situation did not warrant a declaration of emergency rule, and that the President had "a firm hold on her mandate" and law and order remained "strong." *With reports from Gil Cabacungan Jr., Juliet Labog-Javellana, Philip C. Tubeza and Cynthia D. Balana*

What's the difference between 7600 and 7500?

From page A1

at the Georgetown County Airport after one of the pilots accidentally entered a code saying the aircraft had been hijacked.

State Ports Authority chair Harry Butler was flying the plane from Georgetown to Columbia on Thursday morning when he lost both radios.

The weather wasn't good enough to land in Columbia without the radio, so he turned back to the coast, where it was clear.

Number makes difference

En route, his copilot sent a message on a signal device. He was supposed to type 7600, which means "lost communications." But instead, he punched in 7500, which reports a hijacking, Butler said.

Air traffic controllers in Myrtle Beach then notified federal authorities, who sent in the local deputies.

Butler said he had no idea what had happened until he landed and a dozen deputies surrounded his plane. FBI agents and officials from the Federal Aviation Administration questioned the pair for about two hours, Butler said. *AP*

'Bring in the muscle, let's bring in the fear'

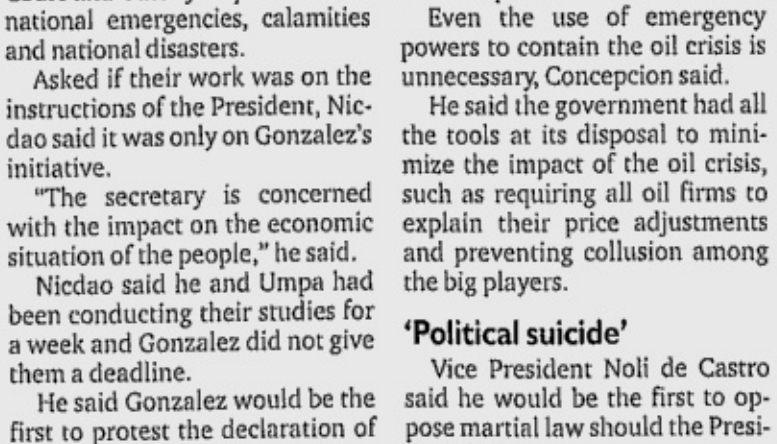
From page A1

only confined] to Makati City, the People Power Monument [on Edsa] and Quezon Boulevard.

"Investors have no confidence here... because of the political crisis. It's not because of the rallies, [which are] a manifestation that the people are disgruntled at her refusal to come clean and tell the truth."

Flashback

At a dinner with INQUIRER editors on Sept. 1, Florencio Abad, a former education secretary and a member of the Hyatt 10, said that for him, governing based on national security meant equating Ms Arroyo's survival with the survival of the state.



PRESIDENT ARROYO with Soliman in friendlier climes

It is a fusion of interests, "which should not be the case," he said.

Abad said that when police and military agents raided an opposition safe house in San Mateo, Rizal, last month without a search warrant, he had a "flashback" of the July 5 meeting.

"In my mind, I said, 'Is this the 'operationalization' of that policy? There was no justification at all for that raid,'" he said.

He then said the public should carefully interpret Malacañang's statements, particularly on terrorism.

He conceded that there could be "plots to sow terror," but added: "Yet this can also be used to justify the repression of dissent."

PNP to strike at carnappers posing as cops

FOLLOWING THE rising incidents of armed car thefts in Metro Manila, the Philippine National Police said yesterday it would launch preemptive strikes against carnap gangs.

The PNP said that since carnappers now pose as policemen to get motorists to stop and get out of their cars, real policemen would no longer use unmarked vehicles in their operations.

"We have given instructions to the National Capital Region Police Office and the Traffic Management Group to strike hard without letup on the suspected hideouts of carnappers as part of our preemptive response," said PNP officer in charge Deputy Director General Oscar Calderon in a statement.

PNP spokesperson Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said the preemptive strike was in response to text messages and e-mails the police had received about the series of carnappings committed on Gilmore and Hemady streets and the Blue Ridge-Katipunan underpass, all in Quezon City.

According to the PNP, armed men aboard unmarked vehicles with sirens and blinkers would signal a motorist to stop. The motorist, thinking he was being stopped by policemen for an offense, would stop but realize too late that it was a robbery.

Calderon said the Quezon City Police District had arrested several suspected carnappers in separate operations last week.

He also urged the public to report sightings of armed persons in civilian clothes or police uniforms who are on board unmarked vehicles to the PNP through Patrol 117 or PNP Text 2920.

Dona Z. Pazzibugan

Search on for top education journalist

THE SOUTHEAST Asian Ministers of Education Organization (Seameo) secretariat has called on print journalists in Southeast Asia to join the annual Seameo-Australia Press Award.

The award is given yearly to recognize media coverage of educational affairs in the region. It is open to all print journalists in Seameo member-countries, namely, the Philippines, Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Burma (Myanmar), Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.

Applicants should adhere to this year's theme, "Education for Disaster Awareness and Recovery." The article to be submitted must have been published between Nov. 1, 2004, and Sept. 30, 2005. The article must be original, may be written in English or any Southeast Asian language, in which case the entry should be submitted with an English translation. The article may be a single piece or a series of related pieces. Articles published in academic journals will not be accepted.

Entries must reach the Seameo regional centers or the secretariat not later than Oct. 1, 2005. The Seameo secretariat may be reached through tel. no. +66(0)-23910144, fax no. +66(0)-23812587, email: secretariat @seameo.org, or the website: www.seameo.org.

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The WORLD

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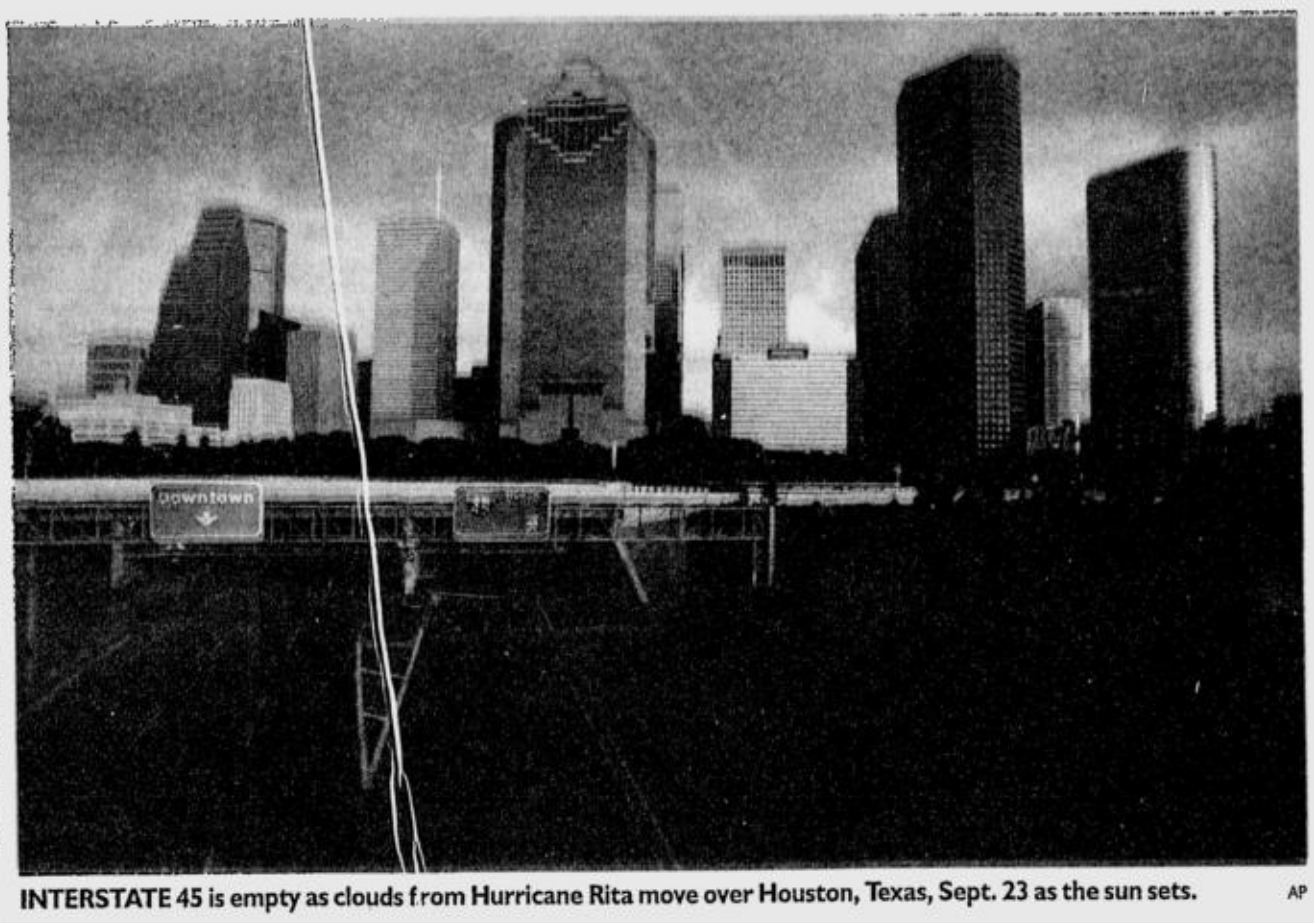


INTERSTATE 45 is empty as clouds from Hurricane Rita move over Houston, Texas, Sept. 23 as the sun sets. AP

Rita rams US Gulf Coast

BEAUMONT, TEXAS—HURRICANE RITA VENTED HER fury on Texas and Louisiana early Saturday, unleashing a terrifying tempest of 195 kph winds and drenching low lying regions threatened by flood tides with driving sheets of rain.

Street signs, roofing, tree limbs and other debris careened through the air, in deluged and deserted streets littered with downed power lines and torn down traffic lights.

In Beaumont, Texas, just northwest of the spot where Rita crashed ashore from the Gulf of Mexico, flashes of green light erupted in the night sky as electricity substations exploded, plunging whole towns into darkness as the storm wailed.

Category three Rita smashed into a coastline bristling with vital oil and chemical installations after its outer bands dumped fresh floods on New Orleans, and an estimated two million people fled its approaching wrath.

Tragedy struck when 24 elderly patients of a nursing home burned to death in a bus explosion on Friday, during the mass, confusing exodus away from the coast, less than four weeks after deadly Hurricane Katrina pummeled Louisiana, Alamaba and Mississipi, killing at least 1,075 people.

Forecasters warned fearsome flood tides of up to 4.5 m high could swallow up parts of the Gulf Coast, and there were signs that the storm could stall, as it settled on land, and pile up deep rainfall totals.

"We have landfall," said Colin McAdie, a spokesperson for the US National Hurricane center, in Miami, adding that the storm roared ashore on the Texas/Louisiana border at 3:39 a.m. (3:39 p.m. in Manila).

The center's latest advisory at 0700 GMT (3 p.m. here) said Rita was packing maximum winds of 195 kph with higher gusts and that the calm eye of the storm was 16 km off the coast.

"Large swells generated by Rita will likely affect most portions of the Gulf Coast," the advisory said.

Maximum rainfall totals in excess of 63 cm could be seen in some areas, the center said.

In Galveston, Texas, where a 1900 hurricane killed up to 12,000 people, a fierce fire raged in a historic district, television pictures showed. Walls of flame and sparks fanned by winds of up to 112 kph surged towards firefighters.

Coastguards in Port Fourchon, Louisiana, meanwhile claimed the first rescue of the storm, plucking an eight month pregnant woman and her four year old son to safety by helicopter from their damaged home.

There was no way to assess casualties or damage, as it was still too dangerous for emergency services to move around.

In New Orleans, levees were breached on the Industrial Canal and the water was 2.4 m high in some areas, including the impoverished Ninth Ward and St. Bernard's parish—two of the areas worst hit by Katrina.

The flood surge represented the worst nightmare for US army engineers who have been battling to shore up levees.

"Obviously it's disappointing for the corps, but not totally unexpected," said Brig. Gen. William Grisoli.

There was no flooding, however, in the north of the city where the 17th Street Canal and London Outfall Canal off Lake Pontchartrain breached by Katrina on Aug. 29, said Louisiana transportation and development secretary Johnny Bradberry.

A huge swathe of land was turned into a ghost coastline by one of the largest evacuations in US history—26 days after Hurricane Katrina powered ashore, inundating New Orleans and devastating the Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama coastline.

Massive traffic jams had snaked out of major population centers, including the city of Houston, Texas, on late Wednesday and Thursday, as people, many with Katrina's deadly strike in their minds, fled to safety.

But unlike Katrina, it appeared that Rita would steer clear of major population areas, with Houston, one of America's most populous cities, being spared a direct hit.

Rita's first tragic toll came as a bus carrying elderly nursing home residents away from the storm zone caught fire near Dallas, killing 24 people, police said.

More than 40 people were on the bus when it was rocked by explosions that police said they believe were caused by oxygen canisters for the patients. On Thursday an elderly woman caught in a traffic jam in the exodus died of apparent heat exhaustion.

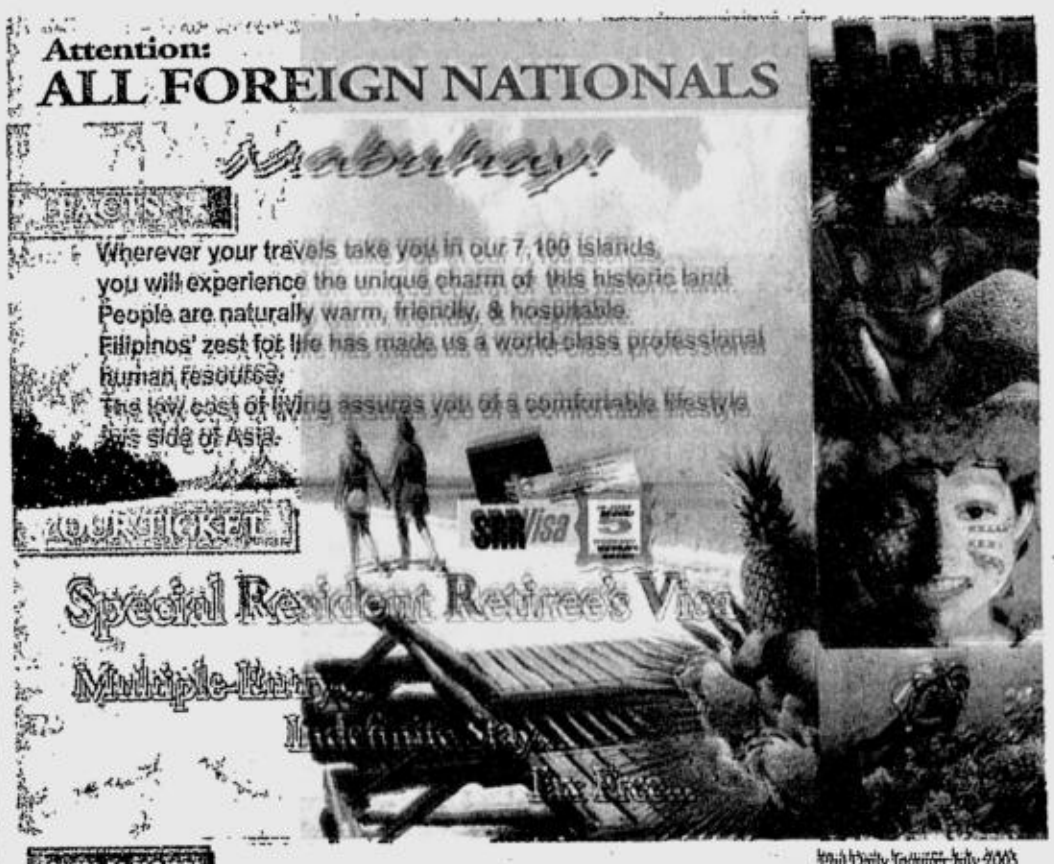
Port Arthur, just south of Beaumont, is a major oil refinery and chemical processing region. The US military on Friday airlifted more than 10,000 people out of the city amid fears that it would bear the brunt of Rita's force.

"We expect a catastrophic event," said firefighter Troy Irvine as forecasters indicated the huge storm could make landfall near the so-called "Energy City."

At Lake Charles in Louisiana, police told anyone planning to stay to write their name, date of birth and social security number on their forearms in waterproof ink so they can be identified if killed.

President George W. Bush, yet to shake off criticism of his leadership during the Katrina crisis, cancelled a planned visit to Texas to avoid getting in the way of emergency workers.

Instead, he went to the US Northern Command headquarters in Colorado where the military response to the storm is being prepared. *AFP*



Debt relief prospects wane as financial leaders haggle

WASHINGTON—TO THE BITTER DISMAY OF activists, prospects for a deal this weekend by global financial leaders to cancel the crushing debts of the world's poorest nations receded Friday.

Officials attending the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund said technical questions still needed to be hammered out to finalize the debt relief plan announced by the Group of Eight powers in July.

Meeting here Friday, finance ministers from the G7 nations—the G8 minus Russia—were set to reaffirm support for their leaders' initiative and call on participants in this weekend's talks to endorse it "expeditiously."

At the same time, the ministers said in a draft statement, the financing needs of the global lenders should not be reduced on the back of a debt cancellation. That is a key demand of campaigners and other aid donors.

G8 leaders agreed in Scotland the outlines of a deal to cancel $40 billion in debt owed by 18 developing nations, nearly all in Africa.

Most of the money is owed to the World Bank, with smaller parts owed to the IMF and the African Development Bank.

Campaigners had hoped that the 184 members of the Bank and IMF would put the finishing touches to the agreement at their talks this weekend, so that the beneficiaries can divert funds from interest payments to health and education.

But a German official said: "We're not going to sort out the technical problems in two days.

"We're near an agreement but the devil is always in the details and to get from here to there, there are still divergences," said the official, declining to be named.

EU economic affairs commissioner Joaquin Almunia said a deal should come soon, if not necessarily this weekend.

"We hope that the technical elements that are still being discussed can be resolved ... and that this week we can announce that all the technical details have been resolved and the agreement can be adopted," he said.

For activists, the backsliding in Washington is depressingly familiar. They argue that every day that is lost to technical negotiations is another day that thousands die for lack of food or clean water.

"Further delay is frustrating, tragic and deeply disappointing," Stephen Rand of the Jubilee Debt Campaign said.

"Failure would be a catastrophic betrayal of millions of campaigners around the world, and above all the citizens of heavily-indebted countries who had been given some hope by the G8 promises of the summer," he said. *AFP*

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Indonesia: World must unite to fight bird flu

JAKARTA—INDONESIA'S PRESIDENT said on Friday it was vital the international community fought bird flu together, adding his government was doing all it could to halt a virus that has killed four people in the vast Asian country.

Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said authorities across the world's fourth most populous nation were making checks of all vulnerable areas, such as zoos and bird markets.

The number of Indonesians under observation for symptoms of the highly pathogenic H5N1 strain of bird flu has risen to 17, all in a Jakarta hospital, health officials said on Friday.

But UN health experts have said the growth in possible cases in Indonesia—a big producer and consumer of chickens—did not mean the outbreak was worsening, and that there was still no sign the virus could be passed easily between humans.

"As past history shows, if there is no global cooperation, (things) can spread across countries and the number of victims can be higher," Yudhoyono told a news conference after meeting governors from all 33 Indonesian provinces.

"We have taken effective steps, nationally and internationally, so it will not worsen or expand into a really serious threat to the global community."

He did not elaborate on his remarks about international cooperation, but many foreign health experts have been coming to Indonesia to offer advice.

The World Health Organization (WHO) is also working with the government to source new stocks of the antiviral drug Tamiflu to bolster local stocks.

The bird flu virus has spread to 22 provinces across the sprawling archipelago, killing more than 9.5 million poultry since late 2003. Indonesia said this week it would cull poultry in areas where the outbreak was serious.

Four Indonesians are confirmed to have died since July from bird flu.

Officials said on Friday that local tests confirmed a five-year-old girl who died this week did not have the virus.

No results have yet been announced for another girl, aged two, who died in Jakarta this week with bird flu symptoms.

Bird flu has killed 64 people in four Asian nations since late 2003 and has been found in birds in Russia and Europe.

The WHO's chief said last week that bird flu was moving toward becoming transmissible by humans and that the world had no time to waste to prevent a pandemic.

Millions died in past flu pandemics.

Sardikin Giriputro, deputy head of the Jakarta hospital designated by the government to treat bird flu, said nine of his 17 patients had visited Jakarta's Ragunan zoo, shut this week after tests showed some exotic birds had avian flu.

On Thursday, the government put the number of people under observation at 11.

Only one of those patients, an eight-year-old boy related to a Jakarta woman who died of bird flu two weeks ago, has been confirmed to have the virus. Doctors said his condition was good.

Until now, all deaths and recent suspected cases of bird flu have been in or around the teeming capital.

The government has appealed for calm over the outbreak and Yudhoyono urged the media on Friday not to go overboard.

"You can help by not dramatizing conditions out of proportion as if everyone is suffering from avian flu ... We need to cooperate so that our country will not be badly perceived," he said.

On Monday, the government imposed a state of high alert, giving authorities power to order people with symptoms of the disease into hospitals. *Reuters*

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IT CAN ALSO BANK
The Narrow Car Company of Wales presents the radical new congestion-busting design of transport crossing a car with a motorcycle. The NARO is a two-seater vehicle currently under development where driver and passenger sit in tandem as on a motorbike, but are cocooned in a car-like shell. Developers claim it drives like a motorbike, and even has to be leaned into corners, but has four wheels and the safety facilities of a car. AP

Dream destination Dubai nightmare for Asian workers

By Hassen el-Fekih

DUBAI—UNDER A BLISTERING sun, a Pakistani worker covered in dust peers at a luxurious tower block rising from the desert sands of Dubai, an eldorado for expatriates which can turn into a life of misery for Asian laborers.

The man was among hundreds of Asian workers who demonstrated on Monday to protest over months of unpaid wages, highlighting the plight of low-paid expatriate laborers in the oil-rich Gulf region.

Hundreds of thousands of Asians work on scores of mega projects across the wealthy emirate of Dubai, often living in dire conditions and toiling long hours in temperatures as high as 50 degrees Celsius.

"I haven't even been able to earn half of what I paid to come here," said the bearded man in blue worker's overalls who asked not to give his name.

"The agency which hired me lied—like all of them operating in Asian countries. They advertised Dubai as a place with high salaries and ideal living conditions," he said bitterly.

The worker said he paid 13,000 dirhams ($3,500) to the agency which hired him for his current job in Dubai. "I even had to sell some of my belongings and the jewelry of my mother."

He earns 750 dirhams (about $200) a month and works 11 hours per day fixing air-conditioning systems in ultra-humid Dubai, one of seven emirates making up the United Arab Emirates.

The Pakistani lives with several other roommates in a small, prefabricated shack in a camp housing thousands of Asian workers with similar stories.

With its sights set on becoming the region's main business and tourism hub, Dubai is in the throes of a construction frenzy, with resorts, malls, sports installations and residential complexes sprouting up across its sands.

Expatriates are widely believed to make up about 80 percent of the emirate's population which exceeded one million residents earlier this year, with Asians making up the majority of foreigners.

Hundreds of Asian workers—mostly from India, Pakistan and Bangladesh—marched out of the site of the huge Palm Island project for the protest, in a street action which is highly unusual in the region.

Protestors said they had not been paid for between five and six months, and put their average monthly wages at about 600 dirhams ($160).

The action prompted the labor ministry to exert pressure on the employer which agreed to pay two months of wages for the time being.

But being paid on time is not the only problem faced by the workers who also widely complain about work and living conditions at the camps which suffer from chronic water cuts.

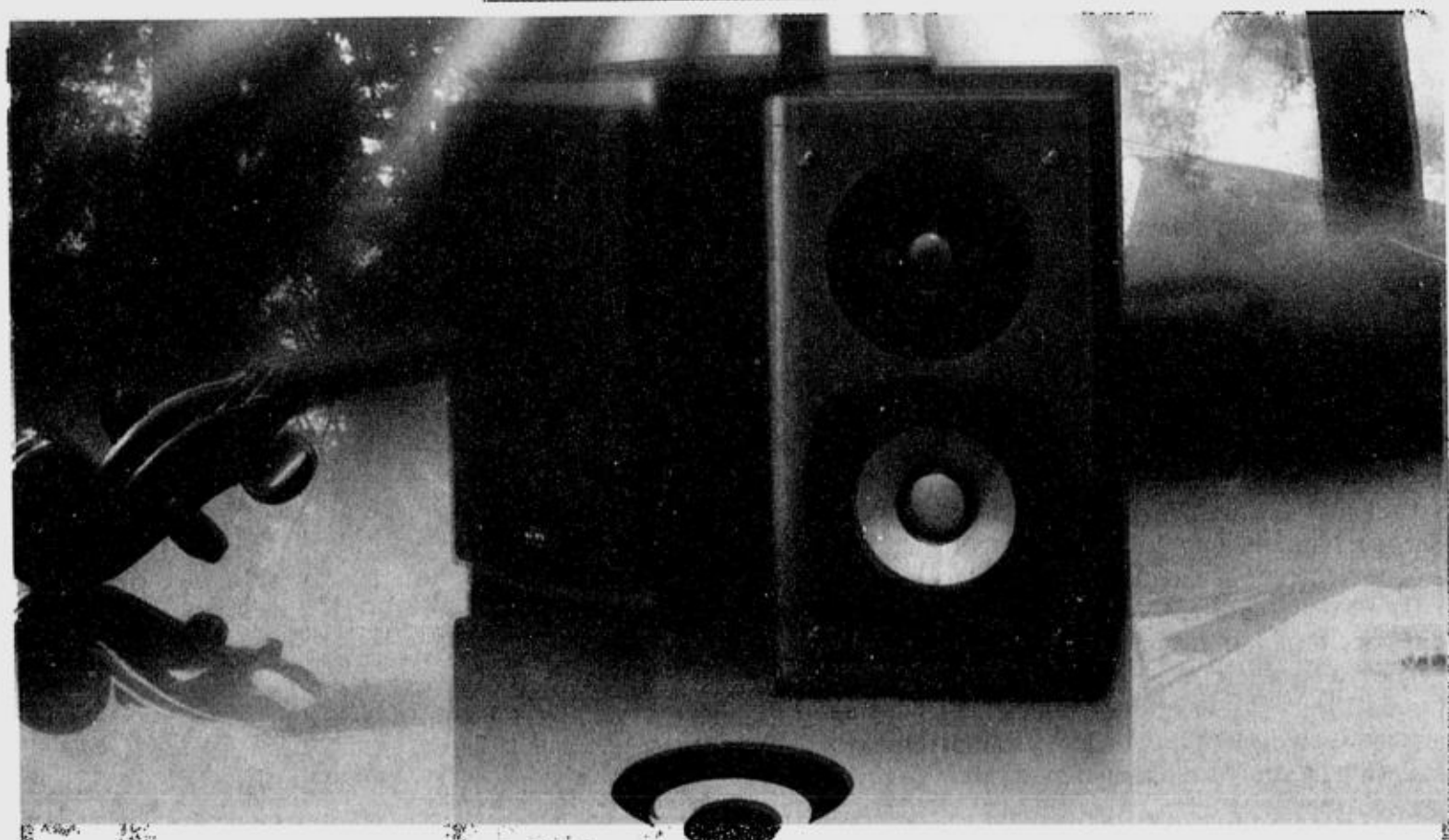
Workers said they lived 18 per air-conditioned makeshift wooden lodging of 30 square meters at the camp.

"In order to take a shower, many times we have to walk to another camp" because of the cuts, said one worker, waiting next to the camp fence where his washed clothes were laid to dry in the sun.

One Indian worker said: "I have been in Dubai for two years, and I have been working nine hours a day. I work overtime hours which are paid like regular hours."

It is perhaps no surprise that workers do not protest more often.

"Some people tell us not to speak about work and living conditions, and advise us to stay quiet or else we could have our work visas canceled," said one of the workers. *AFP*



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OPINION

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Loyal to a fault

EDITORIAL

IN HIS TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE BLUE Ribbon committee last Thursday, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales Jr. violated one of the fundamental rules of national-security decision-making. He did not show up prepared.

A national security adviser's brief is to allow the government to think through national-security options and prepare for national-security contingencies. To equip him for his job, the national security adviser even oversees the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency.

To be sure, Gonzales did not need the resources of any intelligence agency to anticipate the questions he ended up fielding in the Senate. Since the story of the controversial Venable contract broke, senators from both sides of the aisle had been vocal about their outrage.

All Gonzales needed to do (he was abroad when the news broke) was to ask a member of his staff for recent clippings or clips from TV and radio, and he would have known what to expect. He would have known, in particular, that three questions would be thrown at him. First, what kind of authority did he have to sign the contract? Second, who was to pay for the contract? And third, has payment in fact been made?

On each of these questions (asked many times, in many different forms), Gonzales fumbled; sometimes he appeared to be cagey, other times he looked genuinely confused. On each of these questions, he failed to answer to anyone's satisfaction (surely, not even the hard-liners in Malacañang could have been pleased with his calamitous performance).

Upon repeated questioning, he finally said he assumed he had the President's verbal authority to enter into a contract. (But that made his decision not to consult with government lawyers even more inexplicable.) He also said private donors were footing the P50-million bill, but explained that he did not know who they were and needed "some days" to find out. (But that made his assertion that he was the official solely responsible for the contract even more untenable.) Not least, he also said that initial payment had probably already been made, but clarified that he was only guessing and needed more time to verify his guess. (That made his reassurance that the now-rescinded contract caused no harm to the body politic even more unrealistic.)

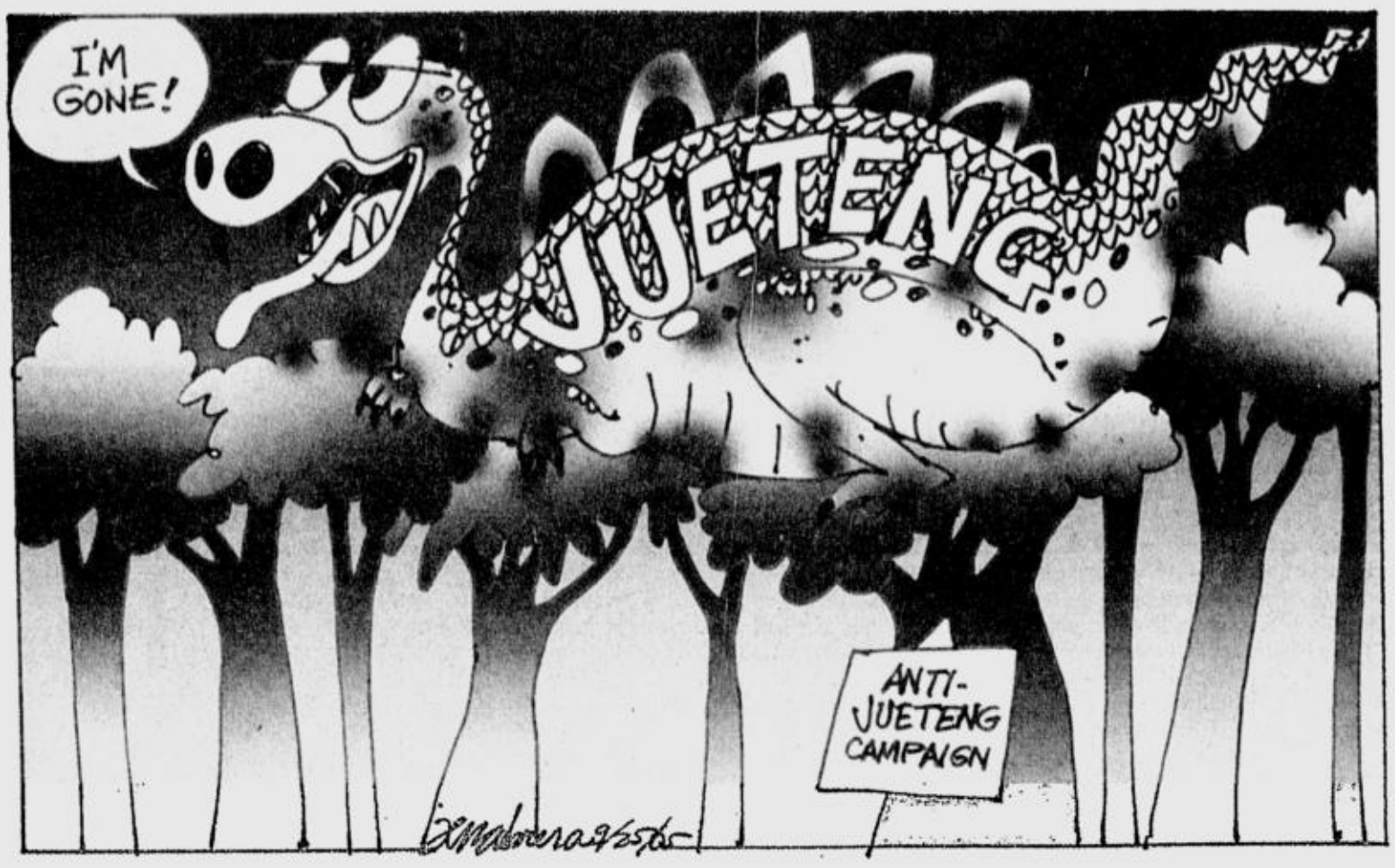
What in the world was he thinking? If he genuinely did not know the answers, he could have asked to postpone the hearing, or avoided it altogether. Indeed, he could have refused to answer the Senate summons; in time, he would have been cited for contempt, but at least he would have been placed under the custody of the Senate without proving beyond reasonable doubt that he was, in fact, unqualified for the post he now holds.

But if he knew the answers, or was only acting as the "fall guy" for someone else—whether it was the President or her husband or her new chief of staff—he couldn't have done a worse job of covering up. Through his largely incoherent answers, he **confirmed** suspicions that he was only taking orders, first in entering into the contract, and now in justifying the circumstances that led to it.

In either case, he undermined public confidence in the government's national-security capacity. To be sure, not many people know what it is exactly that a national security adviser does, except perhaps as someone involved in the war against terror. But his turn before the Senate Blue Ribbon panel could not have boosted the administration's stock with the public.

It must be said that some of the senators at the hearing were insufferable and overbearing, treating the Cabinet official with undisguised disdain. Senate President Franklin Drilon, for instance, seemed to have forgotten the inherent dignity of a Cabinet office, several of which he had occupied at various times before his election to the Senate. Not having succeeded in forcing the President to resign two months ago, he now vented his ire on her hapless alter ego. (The public can sense that, too.)

But even if all the senators had kept their knives sheathed, Gonzales' testimony would still have been a calamity. He still would have claimed he didn't know the answers. And he still would have proven himself either dramatically incompetent or loyal to a dangerous fault.



Another outrageous scandal

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAD NOT yet fully enjoyed her reprieve over the recently dismissed impeachment complaints when she was confronted with another scandal equally repugnant as the Garci tapes and the *jueteng* payola. This time it's the shocking retainer agreement entered into by the Republic of the Philippines with an American law firm.

The contract was unknown to the general public, and apparently even the fault-finding critics of GMA, when it exploded like a bombshell last week. President Arroyo's supposed triumph for accidentally holding the rotational monthly chairmanship of the Security Council was spoiled by the startling revelation.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, the Little President, denied any knowledge of the contract, as so did many other Cabinet members. Vice President Noli de Castro did not know about it either although he used to be a newscaster at ABS-CBN. The senators are now conducting a full-dress investigation that, let us hope, will not also be slain in mid-air like many of its other probes.

Norberto Gonzales, national security adviser, gave a lame explanation of why the transaction was kept under wraps. He could offer only a shallow and unconvincing defense of the document he had negotiated and signed on behalf of our Republic. He also admitted that the President knew about the agreement although, he cautiously added for her protection, only slightly.

That is remarkable because the contract with the law firm of Venable LLP provided *inter alia* for the payment to it of a monthly retainer of $75,000 or $900,000 for the one-year term of the agreement. That was even exclusive of time billing for unspecified special services. The peso equivalent of the basic fee alone would be the astronomical sum of P50,400,000 that our impoverished country can ill afford except for junkets.

The tremendous cost of the contract is unconscionable in light of our reputation as one of the poorest countries in Asia, second only to Bangladesh from the bottom. The exorbitant commitment sneers at our urgent problems like the feeding of our starving millions demanding the immediate attention of our government.

Worse, the exposé of the Venable contract has led to the discovery of similar agreements with other American law firms requiring equally extravagant compensation. Gonzales has a ready solution. He says payment of the Venable retainer would not come from the government but from private donors, who presumably would also foot the bill of the other lobbyist companies.

The trouble is that Gonzales says he does not even know who those donors are or if they have already made the required advance payment on the contract. He has been held in contempt of the Senate for his incredible ignorance or evasiveness, and will be detained until he tells the truth.

Those donors, if they really exist, deserve our gratitude for their generosity unless there was a less altruistic *quid pro quo* that prompted them to be so open-handed. Could it be that they are so anxious to establish the parliamentary system here that they would have the American law firm lobby the US Congress to underwrite the revision of Constitution? If the mysterious donors are also foreigners, they would be doubly guilty for interfering in our national affairs.

The reported cancellation of the Venable contract (after 90 days' written notice to the other party) has not corrected and ended the scandal. There is still the full payment of the law firm's retainer from last July, when the agreement became effective, until its rescission this coming December. Lawyers are quite demanding when it comes to the collection of their fees. The amount due Venable during that six-month period will be at least $450,000 or P25,200,000, which is preposterous in either currency or any other.

Who will pay for this squandered expense? President Arroyo as the principal obligor under the doctrine of command responsibility, Norberto Gonzales as her authorized but officious agent, the invisible donors who are probably also non-existent as a figment of Gonzales' imagination, or the Filipino people as the customary whipping boy and sucker for their prodigal public servants?

The investigation being conducted by the Blue Ribbon Committee should get to the bottom of this yet another anomaly that has outraged the nation. Legislators are known for letting their initial inquisitiveness lapse into pragmatic leniency. It's time they took a less forgiving eye on those who would blandly violate their oaths of office and confidently expect the usual undeserved clemency, if not even praise, for their misdeeds.

Secretary Norberto Gonzales was the object of derision at the Senate hearing last Wednesday for his rank incompetence and unacceptable denials. President Arroyo, who appointed him, has once again proved her disrepute in the international community as the national leader who is "least able to lead." Rather than resign, she prefers to continue tottering on the political skid row.

Truthful and fruitful

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

ONE early morning, on my way to our seminary chapel, I was approached by a man who looked at me and said, "Excuse me, Sir, are you **depressed**?" I did not know how to respond to his question, coming as it did from a person I hardly knew. After overcoming my initial surprise, I realized he was asking if I was **the priest**! He was the driver who was sent by the religious sisters to fetch the priest to say Mass in their convent. With a smile, I looked at him and said, "Ah, what do you **mean**?"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mt. 21, 28-32), Jesus tells us to mean what we say and say what we mean. The proof of loving God is not by words but by deeds. He also warns us about being complacent. Salvation comes not by religion but by a personal relationship that bears good fruits in daily life in the context of a community. So, if you declare that you love God, just precisely what do you *mean* by that, in the concrete?

* * *

We are three boys in the family, and we all entered the seminary. Papa wanted all his sons—or at least one—to become a priest. Manong Oscar was the first to enter, but he left after one year at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary. Then it was my turn to enter the seminary. So, too, did my younger brother Tim, who stayed for four years at the Christ the King Seminary. I'm the one who became a priest, but in more ways than one, I look at my two brothers and I realize that they also live the priestly life, with their work, with their dedication to their family, and with their being true to their commitments and ideals. I received the title "Father," but they earned it by being a real father to Mark, Ginny, Luke and Gio. Beyond words, beyond titles, beyond religion, beyond profession, what matters most is that we are true and that we respond to the Father's call, whatever it may be.

* * *

We all will go someday, that's for sure. To heaven or to hell? That's not sure. But if we are all truthful and follow the Truth Himself, we will already experience heaven here on earth and in eternity. On the other hand, one already experiences hell when one is untrue—the fear of being caught, the pretenses one has to put up, the constant bugging of the conscience, and the heavy remorse as one approaches the end. It must be nauseating when one looks at lots of money coming in, knowing that it is dirty money coming from little people who have been cheated, swindled or even killed in the process. Again, we ask ourselves the question: What for? Is it worth it all?

* * *

Being true is a universal call. People must be true to the titles given to them. Thus, a public servant must be a real servant to the public, not one who makes a servant out of the public. A priest must be a real father to his flock, and not one who lives farther and farther from his flock. A religious must be a real religious, and not just one who religiously exercises, or who religiously eats, or who religiously watches the latest movies. Actually, many of us are working on being true, but we must admit that we are this and that, too.

* * *

So much trash and garbage in our government these days. While garbage can be classified into nonbiodegradable and biodegradable, some words of our so-called leaders, politicians and government officials are not even gradable. Lots of words, empty words. Lots of talk, useless talk. Lots of lies, glorious lies. Lots of confusion. In the meantime, lots of suffering people, going nowhere, being taken for a ride by politicians who actually believe that they can fool everyone with their promises and lies.

* * *

Reminds me of a story about a little boy from China whose family settled in America. One day, in exasperation, he said: "I am so confused with the English language: they point to electrical gadget, they say 'plug,' they point to a croaking animal, they say 'plug,' they point to a cloth on top of a pole, they say 'plug'!" This story should remind us adults to stop confusing the children. What are we leaving behind for the next generation? How will they remember us and our generation? On a more personal note, how will you be remembered by your children and grandchildren? Will they be so proud or ashamed of you long after you're gone?

* * *

Sept. 25 to Oct. 2, 2005 is National Laity Week. The Council of the Laity of the Philippines (Secretariat of the Episcopal Commission on Lay Apostolate of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines) suggests "Self-discipline and value change as the key to growth, love and progress of our country" as the theme for this year's celebration. May we all have a deep faith that should lead us to deep love and concern for our country by being truthful and by doing our very best to help our country and our people.

* * *

See you on Oct. 8, 6 a.m. at the Urdaneta Church for the three-hour "Walk with God to Manaoag," which we offer to thank God for the blessings received from Him and to ask God's help for our country through the intercession of Mama Mary.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me not only to be truthful in words but also to be fruitful in deeds. Amen.

Transnationals helping the home country

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

IN A RECENT ARTICLE, MR. DENNIS POSADAS, a consultant with the UP Ayala Technology Business Incubator, noted that because of a depressing assessment of the country's future, many skilled and highly trained Filipinos are opting to try their luck overseas. For them, it is either leave or stay behind and stagnate.

Posadas says that, perhaps, there is a third alternative. He explains: "In some countries like Taiwan, scientists and engineers who have immigrated to developed countries like the US have worked out an alternative option. They have chosen to travel regularly back to their country of origin to either teach, fund or mentor technical startups or run their own technology companies. These people are called transnationals, shuttling back and forth between their adopted and home countries. What separates them from others is that these people have allocated part of their year, whether a few weeks or a few months, to spend in their country of origin."

A good example of a transnational is Dr. Greg Tangonan, who spends part of his year teaching electronics and communications engineering at the Ateneo; the rest he spends promoting a tech startup company in the United States.

Let me mention a few things about Greg. Actually, it was basketball that brought us together and it turned out we were cheering for the same team, aside from sharing close ties to family relatives. His grandfather, Cayetano Ligot, was the first Philippine labor commissioner to the United States, stationed in Honolulu, and the Ligot family settled down in the States. Mother Aurea Ligot came from Laoag, Ilocos Norte, while father Tomas Tangonan hailed from Tarlac. Greg himself was born in Springfield, Massachusetts and stayed there through high school. He came home to the Philippines for his undergraduate years, finishing at the Ateneo in 1969 with a degree in physics. He returned to the United States and won a Howard Hughes Fellowship for Ph.D. studies at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in Pasadena, California, perhaps the most prestigious physics institute in the world. Greg graduated with a Ph.D. in Applied Physics and proceeded to amass a wealth of expertise (and also a small fortune) while working at the Hughes Research Laboratories. He is married to the former Gloria Misa Paredes, sister of Ducky and Jim Paredes, and they have one child, Cristina Elena.

Greg says his work at the Ateneo is really exciting because the world of competition has changed markedly in the last two years. Today, Filipinos can be competitive on the world stage because no one country has a monopoly on new ideas. In fact, we can execute research more cost effectively in the Philippines especially in fields like bio-medical electronics and healthcare devices. This also applies to e-commerce using wireless technology. The world marvels at the ingenuity of the Filipinos in developing pass-a-load technology, SMS-based money transfers and bill paying. These are technologies we should be exporting because they represent world-class services that are homegrown and field-tested.

His 32-year experience in hi-tech work makes him very qualified to help Filipinos develop a strategic approach to R&D and intellectual property (patenting) development. He says, "We really have to think strategically about technology because the same tools are everywhere. What is needed is a strategy that differentiates and maximizes our strengths."

Posadas notes that instead of just echoing a mantra of asking people to return home permanently, encouraging them to become transnationals is an alternative option. "While the rest of the world may think that all we ever do in this country is try to change the government, our local scientists and engineers, with the help of transnationals like Greg, are trying to make sure that we stay competitive with the rest of the world."

* * *

Our congratulations to newly promoted Lt. Gen. Samuel B. Bagasin who, only two weeks ago, was the object of sympathy and concern brought about by the last minute decision to cancel his appointment as commander of Southcom. Last Monday, in the presence of close family members, including his parents from America, he was installed as The Deputy Chief of Staff (TDCS) AFP, giving him a third star.

His predecessor, Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, who was moved to Southcom in an officer-in-charge (OIC) capacity, has been given permanent status, meaning he now commands instead of being merely in charge. But as we noted earlier, Adan is retiring in less than four months. What a way to run the armed forces!

What has not yet been resolved is who takes over the command of the Army's 4th Infantry Division, the former post of Bagasin. The jockeying must be fast and furious since this is a stepping stone to the command of Southcom and possibly even to higher positions. Some names being mentioned are Maj. Gen. Cardozo Luna, head of the Training and Doctrines Command (TRADOC), a member of PMA class 1975, and Maj. Gen. Alexander Yano, chief of staff of the Philippine Army, class of 1976. Another contender is Brig. Gen. Rodolfo Obaniana, deputy inspector general AFP, class of 1974.

One would think that Luna and Yano would have the edge, considering their rank. But in the armed forces, like in any government organization, anything can happen these days, so don't even pretend to be surprised.

Memories

HIGH BLOOD

Teresa Cordero-Pardo

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I WAS 10 YEARS OLD WHEN DAD WAS INVITED IN 1953 BY the World Health Organization to the University of Malaya (now the University of Singapore) to be its visiting professor for three and a half years. Our family moved there. The university compound, on Lornie Road, one and a half hours away from the city, was a remote hilly slope secluded by greenery. The compound contained nine identical, spanking white, two-story houses, each separated from the other by small gardens and hedge fences. It drizzled in Singapore every afternoon, which made so many orchids bloom.

Getting to know the occupants of the nine houses was an adventure. Our neighbor to the right was an English family with two young boys, Alan, 8, and John, 10. One summer evening, we were awakened by a piercing shriek. The next day, I learned that Alan had inadvertently rolled over his pet baby snake on bed and squashed it to death. The tragedy was soon forgotten when Alan ambled to our house with another bigger pet snake wrapped skillfully around his eyes like spectacles resting on his nose. He was shouting in glee, "Look at me! Look at me!" Years later, I was to realize I never feared snakes because they were part of my childhood.

On the left side of our home lived a Chinese professor and his family. Professor and Mrs. Ho had two children, Susie, 5, and Mabel, 3. Professor Ho was elderly and wore a classic Mandarin attire that fell to his ankles. Mrs. Ho was a small but really sexy lady whose cheongsam had high slits revealing a hide-and-seek lace panty around her thighs.

Often, I would visit Susie and Mabel and find Mrs. Ho seated like Scheherazade on the divan, sipping tea from a miniature porcelain teapot. Daintily, she would put the teapot's spout to her red lips and sip gracefully. I was thrilled, for what reason I cannot remember. Immediately, I asked Mom to buy me a small teapot so that I could sip tea from a teapot in my Chinese pajamas.

Every Thursday, my *yaya* and I would walk to the nearby *kampong* (village) and wait for a Chinese *wayang* (opera). We would sit on the grass with our legs crossed. First there was the sound of wooden sticks being struck together, a way to summon people around the improvised stage. The adult actors wore fine costumes depicting Chinese lords and kings. There were a lot of gongs and shrieking Chinese music as the actors sang and moved weirdly on the stage. It was awesome and bewildering.

When I turned 12, Mrs. Ho asked my father if it was all right for me to be baptized again in a Chinese ceremony so that I could acquire a Chinese name. The baptism only involved my turning around in place three times and bowing in front of my parents. After the ritual, there was some eating and drinking, and Mrs. Ho told me that now my name was "May Fong" (pretty dragon) which I learned to write in Chinese characters. I somehow resented the monicker "dragon," but then maybe it was chosen for me because I was always playing strict "teacher" to the other children. Since Susie and Mabel couldn't speak a word of English, I tried to learn Cantonese and to this day I can speak household Cantonese with a perfect accent.

The house on top of the hill was occupied by an Indian family. A daughter, Joan, and I hit it off because she was Asian, yet spoke good English like me. We shared a love for reading. Joan wanted to be a doctor like her father, and I wanted to be a teacher like mine.

It took me a while to pronounce and spell Joan's last name, Mohuiddin, correctly. Mrs. Mohuiddin wore bright-colored sheer saris with her fat tummy peeking above the waistband. I liked her thong sandals, which looked like embroidered leather. I immediately wanted Mom to buy me one.

My life was spent mostly playing in the neighbors' homes until I met Jean. Jean was Caucasian, 13 years old, and on the brink of becoming a lady. One day, Jean invited me to play Rounders. Rounders is much like baseball. You hit the ball when it was your turn and ran to a base. Jean got up and positioned herself with the bat. She swung so hard that her padded bra jumped away from her chest to her back. When I noticed the bra on her back, I was dying to end the game so I could laugh my head off.

Soon it was time for me to go to a Singapore school. I went to the Good Shepherd Convent (because my mother had studied in Good Shepherd in Batangas). It was a small parochial school. I enrolled in the middle of the school term. My teacher was Mother Dympna, a fat jolly nun with rosy cheeks full of freckles. She taught us English grammar and composition and made us memorize long poems. I can't forget how proud I was when I had memorized and mastered the long poem "The Wreck of the Hesperus." We also took Math, Algebra and Geometry all at the same time. If Dad had been not as patient as he was, I probably would have failed all those subjects. Every night, Dad would tutor me and, short of becoming exasperated with my inability to comprehend the subject, he would modulate his tired voice and repeat each problem over again.

In school, I met a different set of friends. Sung Ming Yoke was 18 and an artist. She could draw beautiful feminine figures with fashionable clothes and big earrings. In later years, she would change her name to Maggie. Thirteen-year-old Ching Ling Tong eventually became my best friend. She had fair, clear complexion and wore our white and maroon school uniform very neatly, like it was constantly starched and ironed. Later she also changed her name, to June. Flower Tan was thin and very shy. She was from Thailand and I could never understand her English. I also met lovely Chinese sisters whose fascinating names were Lucky, Lieky and Micky Lau. Shirley Vanderput was probably the oldest in our class. She was a Eurasian beauty but a bit dumb. She never raised her hand in class and was always talking about her boyfriends.

One day, Mom decided to take up driving lessons. One afternoon, we heard a big thud in the kitchen. Mom had lost control of the car while maneuvering a sharp slope in the driveway and crashed into the kitchen sink. This accident made up my father's mind—to get a driver.

Ahmad, the driver, was a young Malay. He was meek but lazy. He would come one day and be absent the next, which angered Mom. A Muslim, he declared that his religion did not allow him to eat any kind of meat. It was such a hassle for our maid who always had to cook something else for him. Once I found the maid dipping a knife into fresh pork lard and spreading it into Ahmad's slice of bread.

Once in a while, Dad's associates in the University would invite us for tea. After many unintended mistakes, Mom and I finally learned that when you are invited to an English tea party, you must come on the dot. Often my parents got there late because they took the wrong turn on the road. They often went home hungry because if the invitation was at 4 p.m., by 4:05 p.m. there was nothing left to eat.

At the back of our house was the Mac Ritchie reservoir surrounded by forest. Beside was the Chinese cemetery. One of my pastimes was sitting on the veranda watching a grand funeral procession go by, complete with professional mourners wailing their hearts out. When I was told that these criers were paid, I thought that, perhaps, one day I could apply to be one.

Teresa Cordero-Pardo, 62, has been blind for six years. She wrote this seven years ago. She owns a store in a Makati mall

Not just a showbiz tempest

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"ACCESS" TO SOURCES IS THE LIFEBLOOD OF the journalist. Without access, without the ability to reach news sources (human or otherwise), obtain information, verify claims—there's nothing for the reporter to report or the columnist to comment on, save perhaps if you're your own eyewitness, and how often does that happen?

One reason I rarely turn down requests for interviews, especially from media colleagues, is that, as a journalist, I depend on gaining access for a living, so who am I to deny the same to other journalists?

When Erap banned INQUIRER reporters from joining a Malacañang press conference, this paper's editors correctly read it as a form of censorship. By refusing access to his person and his official pronouncements, Erap effectively constrained the coverage of INQUIRER reporters and therefore deprived the people who get their news from the paper the information they need to form their own opinions and become better citizens. This is why press freedom is protected in our Constitution. And why any threat to the continued enjoyment of "access" to sources must be viewed as a threat to press freedom.

All this is by way of *pasakalye* to a discussion of the case filed by TV-movie actress Claudine Barretto against Jo-Ann Maglipon, editor of the glossy showbiz magazine "Yes!" Maglipon and daughter Pat Marcelo have in turn filed libel suits against Barretto. (For purposes of full disclosure, Jo-Ann is a second cousin on my mother's side, while her younger sister Mi-Ann was one of my best friends in high school.)

I'm rather sad that a *pasakalye* was needed at all, because if the dispute was between, say, a politician and a broadsheet, it would have landed on the front pages pronto. But because "showbiz" personalities are involved, it's deemed of no lasting consequence beyond the *tsismis* value.

* * *

LAST July 22, Barretto filed a civil suit against Maglipon "praying" for an injunction against the editor, as well as reporters, contributors or photographers under her authority, to be refrained from getting within 250 meters of the actress, her immediate family and her home. In addition, Barretto is suing for a total of P8 million in moral and exemplary damages and attorney's fees.

I guess Barretto is aware that what she's asking for, if she wins, is to be barred from the pages of Yes! forevermore. For how else could the magazine feature her if they were not allowed to even approach her?

And that's where the flurry of lawsuits between the former "Marina" star and the Yes! editor spills over from a legal dispute to an issue of press freedom. Imagine if all actors and celebrities decide to follow Barretto's lead and seek injunctions against any showbiz reporter who crosses them or editor who refuses to suck up to them. Showbiz coverage is sycophantic enough as it is, but I can already hear the *tsup-tsup* of reporters and columnists stumbling over themselves to court the more popular stars for fear of being barred.

Then what if politicians see the possible ramifications for themselves? Unfavorable reports or commentary might invite similar lawsuits, with public officials picking and choosing among the media pack who they want to talk to.

Of course, anybody—actor or network bigshot, politician or businessman—has all the right not to take a phone call or refuse to look an ambush reporter's way. But an injunction against a journalist is another matter altogether. To my view, that constitutes prior restraint, and the Constitution is firm on protecting the press against that. Barretto's suit precisely states that she hopes to establish a legal precedent to "protect" actors and other public figures from media coverage—the kind they don't court or pay for, that is. But if she wins, she will effectively have shackled the media the way even Erap could not, with threats and boycotts.

* * *

FROM THE POINT-OF-VIEW of an observer who happens to be a faithful Yes! reader, the suit versus Maglipon—no one else was included in the complaint, not even her publisher which is standard in libel suits—strikes me as the offshoot of a personal grievance stemming from Yes! magazine's throwing a wrench into the carefully designed "grieving and aggrieved semi-widow" persona Barretto had hoped to assume upon the death of her ex-boyfriend Rico Yan.

Barretto in her complaint, however, says the complaint was based on the publication of "unofficial" photos taken during the taping of the defunct *teleserye* "Marina," including an allegedly demeaning one showing the star asleep; the unauthorized publication of an article and photos of the christening of her baby daughter; and the publication of a photo of the home she will share with fiancé actor Raymart Santiago.

In an article in Yes!, Maglipon expresses puzzlement at the complaint because the same events and similar photos had appeared in other publications, including the INQUIRER. I even remember another showbiz magazine featuring a pictorial on the Barretto-Santiago residence.

We've lately seen a slew of suits filed by showbiz denizens (Kris Aquino for one) alleging libel for coverage or commentary on their personal lives even if they had already talked in public about the same personal affairs. I wish the Kris Aquino case, for one, had gone to trial if only to establish the principle that people like Kris or Claudine cannot go around and make a handsome living off their celebrity power, and then turn around and tell the media to bugger off when public attention becomes annoying or inconvenient.

Opening the door to press coverage and scrutiny is like inviting an elephant into your home. Once one foot is in, the whole mountain of flesh is apt to follow. Learn to live with it, or quit the biz.

The merchant of Malacañang

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

"I'M TIRED OF CHASING THE BULLIES AROUND the schoolyard," Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo told a gathering of local officials in Pampanga the other day. "Those who would heed my call for unity and reconciliation, they are welcome. But those who would keep on creating disturbance, we're on top of the situation. Our barangay officials will enforce the rule of law."

The metaphor is wrong. Those who criticize her from the streets have no power other than their banners and voices. They are not the school bullies who can browbeat the weak into submission. And she is not the teacher who can use the moral and administrative authority of her position to restore order. She is the unelected bully who deploys coercive and remunerative means to maintain her hold on people.

It is unfortunate that Ms Arroyo uses the school as an analogue for society. The school is founded on dialogue and reason. Her regime is founded on deceit, bribery and intimidation. She conspired with a top election official to manipulate election results in the 2004 presidential election. She has freely used public funds and appointments to choice government posts to buy loyalty and secure political advantage. And now she is threatening to use more force to stop the rallies against her.

Ms Arroyo's model of politics, however, remains that of the market, and Sen. Richard Gordon's recent characterization of her as a "transactional politician" is very apt. The legal scholar RI. Michelman describes politics of this type as one that "asks people to consider no one's interest but their own. Its medium is bargain, not argument. Its tools of persuasion are not claims and reasons but conditional offers of service and forbearance."

We fall into this mode of politics when we start to think that anybody who airs a contrary opinion, quits the government, or participates in rallies is just eyeing a position in a future government or preparing to run in an election. Without fully realizing it, we have perhaps already slid into this attitude. That is why many of us think of the current crisis as nothing but a choice between Ms Arroyo and the discredited remnants of past regimes.

Is it too late, or futile, to re-imagine Philippine politics as a search for agreement over the kind of nation we want for ourselves and our children? This is what Michelman calls the approach to politics as a "normative activity." "It imagines politics as contestation over questions of value and not simply questions of preference. It envisions politics as a process of reason not just of will, of persuasion not just of power, directed toward agreement regarding a good or just—or at any rate, acceptable—way to order those aspects of life that involve people's social relations and social natures."

These two kinds of politics were in full display at the recent impeachment proceedings in the House of Representatives. Listening to the individual explanations that the legislators gave for their votes, one cannot fail to note the contrasting styles of the two groups in the House. The oft-repeated mantra of the rule of law—*dura lex sed lex*—summed up the majority's concept of politics as a contest of will. On the other hand, the nuanced arguments of the minority reflected their notion of politics as reasoned debate. They saw the political process not as a mere counting of heads but as a pooling of judgments. What distinguishes these two political styles from one another is the importance that the latter gave to deliberation and the power of persuasion.

The preferred model of politics for a young democracy like ours is not that of market transaction but that of practical communication. In the market model, the citizen is cast in the role of the buyer or seller looking only after her own interest. Coordination is expected to result from the natural process of mutual exchange. In the model of politics as practical communication, on the other hand, the object is to achieve mutuality of meaning toward cooperation. Participants to a conversation exchange utterances on the basis of assumed meanings. A speaker commits herself to these meanings and expects the other to abide by them in the process of give and take. The goal is to achieve reciprocal understanding, not the pursuit of private meanings.

Ms Arroyo's politics—and maybe the only one known by most politicians in our country—is the market type. Here, the wisdom of laws and policies is seldom argued and validated in the public sphere. Rather, their value is fixed, and their enforcement is traded like any commodity in the political market. The fate of the EVAT law is a good example of what happens when laws and policies are treated like negotiable instruments, rather than as collective tools to achieve a long-term common good.

But the ultimate example of transactional politics has to be the merchandising of Charter change under the auspices of the American lobby firm Venable. This is nothing but a thinly-veiled attempt to sell key provisions in our Constitution to American investors and politicians. It has little to do with the change in the form of government. The real goods that Ms Arroyo wants to sell are the nationalist restrictions on foreign economic presence and the constitutional limitations on foreign troops and facilities on Philippine soil.

I refuse to think that we are condemned to reproduce this brand of politics. I view the crisis we are in as a rare opportunity to break the cycle of market politics that has long retarded the growth of Philippine democracy.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Tracking human development

THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES IS IMPROVING faster than that in the Philippines, according to a study by the United Nations Development Program.

"As a result, the Philippines has fallen more than 10 places in the human quality index (HDI) ranking in just four years. From No. 70 in 1999, the country's HDI ranking dropped to No. 84 in 2003 among 177 countries and territories, data from the Human Development Reports in 2001 and 2005 show.

Albania, Armenia, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Oman, Peru, Ukraine and Western Samoa now have a better quality of life than the Philippines. The reverse was true in 1999.

The HDI measures the average achievement in a country in three dimensions of human welfare: a.) A long and healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth; b.) Knowledge, as measured by the adult literacy rate (with two-thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrollment ratio (with one-third weight); and, c.) A decent standard of living, as measured by the gross domestic product per capita.

Education is one area in which the Philippines has suffered a reversal. Its adult literacy rate fell from 95.6 percent in 1999 to 92.6 percent in 2003.

A declining budget for education as a percentage of the total national budget, along with high levels of income inequality and a surging cost of living, may further lower adult literacy rate in the country.

Human development index (2003)

Rank		HDI value
1	Norway	0.963
2	Iceland	0.956
3	Australia	0.955
4	Luxembourg	0.949
5	Canada	0.949
6	Sweden	0.949
7	Switzerland	0.947
8	Ireland	0.946
9	Belgium	0.945
10	United States	0.944
11	Japan	0.943
12	Netherlands	0.943
13	Finland	0.941
14	Denmark	0.941
15	United Kingdom	0.939
16	France	0.938
17	Austria	0.936
18	Italy	0.934
19	New Zealand	0.933
20	Germany	0.930
21	Spain	0.928
22	Hong Kong, China (SAR)	0.916
23	Israel	0.915
24	Greece	0.912
25	Singapore	0.907
26	Slovenia	0.904
27	Portugal	0.904
28	Korea, Rep. of	0.901
29	Cyprus	0.891
30	Barbados	0.878
31	Czech Republic	0.874
32	Malta	0.867
33	Brunei Darussalam	0.866
34	Argentina	0.863
35	Hungary	0.862
36	Poland	0.858
37	Chile	0.854
38	Estonia	0.853
39	Lithuania	0.852
40	Qatar	0.849
41	United Arab Emirates	0.849
42	Slovakia	0.849
43	Bahrain	0.846
44	Kuwait	0.844
45	Croatia	0.841
46	Uruguay	0.840
47	Costa Rica	0.838
48	Latvia	0.836
49	Saint Kitts and Nevis	0.834
50	Bahamas	0.832
51	Seychelles	0.821
52	Cuba	0.817
53	Mexico	0.814
54	Tonga	0.810
55	Bulgaria	0.808
56	Panama	0.804
57	Trinidad and Tobago	0.801
58	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	0.799
59	Macedonia, TFYR	0.797
60	Antigua and Barbuda	0.797
61	Malaysia	0.796
62	Russian Federation	0.795
63	Brazil	0.792
64	Romania	0.792
65	Mauritius	0.791
66	Grenada	0.787
67	Belarus	0.786
68	Bosnia and Herzegovina	0.786
69	Colombia	0.785
70	Dominica	0.783
71	Oman	0.781
72	Albania	0.780
73	Thailand	0.778
74	Samoa (Western)	0.776
75	Venezuela	0.772
76	Saint Lucia	0.772
77	Saudi Arabia	0.772
78	Ukraine	0.766
79	Peru	0.762
80	Kazakhstan	0.761
81	Lebanon	0.759
82	Ecuador	0.759
83	Armenia	0.759
84	**Philippines**	**0.758**
85	China	0.755
86	Suriname	0.755
87	Saint Vincent/Grenadines	0.755
88	Paraguay	0.755
89	Tunisia	0.753
90	Jordan	0.753
91	Belize	0.753
92	Fiji	0.752
93	Sri Lanka	0.751
94	Turkey	0.750
95	Dominican Republic	0.749
96	Maldives	0.745
97	Turkmenistan	0.738
98	Jamaica	0.738
99	Iran, Islam Rep. of	0.736
100	Georgia	0.732

International cooperation at a crossroads

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO THE first *Human Development Report* looked forward to a decade of rapid progress. "The 1990s," it predicted optimistically, "are shaping up as the decade for human development, for rarely has there been such a consensus on the real objectives of development strategies."

Today, as in 1990, there is also a consensus on development. That consensus has been powerfully expressed in the reports of the UN Millennium Project and the UK-sponsored Commission for Africa. Unfortunately, the consensus has yet to give rise to practical actions—and there are ominous signs for the decade ahead. There is a real danger that the next 10 years, like the past 15 years, will deliver far less for human development that the new consensus promises.

Much has been achieved since the first *Human Development Report*. On average, people in developing countries are healthier, better educated and less impoverished—and they are more likely to live in a multiparty democracy. Since 1990 life expectancy in developing countries has increased by two years. There are three million fewer child deaths annually and 30 million fewer children out of school. More than 130 million people have escaped extreme poverty. These human development gains should not be underestimated.

Reversal

Not should they be exaggerated. In 2003, 18 countries with a combined population of 460 million people registered lower scores on the human development index (HDI) than in 1990—an unprecedented reversal. In the midst of an increasingly prosperous global economy, 10.7 million children every year do not live to see their fifth birthday, and more than 1 billion people survive in abject poverty on less than $1 a day. The HIV/AIDS pandemic has inflicted the single greatest reversal in human development. In 2003 the pandemic claimed three million lives and left another five million people infected. Millions of children have been orphaned.

Global integration is forging deeper interconnections between countries. In economic terms the space between people and countries is shrinking rapidly, as trade, technology and investment link all countries in a web of interdependence. In human development terms the space between countries is marked by deep and, in some cases, widening inequalities in income and life chances. One-fifth of humanity live in countries where many people think nothing of spending $2 a day on a cappuccino. Another fifth of humanity survive on less than $1 a day and live in countries where children die for want of a simple anti-mosquito bednet.

Divided world

At the start of the 21st century we live in a divided world. The size of the divide poses a fundamental challenge to the global human community. Part of the challenge is ethical and moral. As Nelson Mandela put it in 2005: "Massive poverty and obscene inequality are such terrible scourges of our times—times in which the world boasts breathtaking advances in science, technology, industry and wealth accumulation—that they have to rank alongside slavery and apartheid as social evils." The twin scourges of poverty and inequality can be defeated—but progress has been faltering and uneven.

Rich countries as well as poor have an interest in changing this picture. Reducing the gulf in wealth and opportunity that divides the human community is not a zero-sum game in which some have to lose so that others gain. Extending opportunities for people in poor countries to lead long and healthy lives, to get their children a decent education and to escape poverty will not diminish the well-being of people in rich countries. On the contrary, it will help build shared prosperity and strengthen our collective security. In our interconnected world a future built on the foundations of mass poverty in the midst of plenty is economically inefficient, politically unsustainable and morally indefensible.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ/PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

The world's richest 500 individuals have a combined income greater than that of the poorest 416 million. Beyond these extremes, the 2.5 billion people living on less than $2 a day—40 percent of the world's population—account for 5 percent of global income. The richest 10 percent, almost all of whom live in high-income countries, account for 54 percent

The Millennium Development Goals

IN SEPTEMBER 2005, the UN General Assembly will review achievements since the Millennium Declaration of 2000, including progress towards the eight Millennium Development Goals. These goals provide tangible benchmarks for measuring progress in eight areas, with a target date for most of them of 2015:

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty. Halving the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day and halving malnutrition.

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education. Ensuring that all children are able to complete primary education.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women. Eliminating gender disparity in primary and secondary schooling, preferably by 2005 and no later than 2015.

Goal 4 Reduce child mortality. Cutting the under-five death rate by two-thirds.

Goal 5 Improve maternal health. Reducing the maternal mortality rate by three-quarters.

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. Halting and beginning to reverse HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Goal 7 Ensure environmental stability. Cutting by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and sanitation.

Goal 8 Develop a global partnership for development. Reforming aid and trade with special treatment for the poorest countries.

SOURCE: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Philippine HDI standing

Year	Rank
2003	84
2002	83
2001	85
2000	84
1999	70
1998	77
1997	77

Life expectancy gaps are among the most fundamental of all inequalities. Today, someone living in Zambia has less chance of reaching age 30 than someone born in England in 1840—and the gap is widening. HIV/AIDS is at the heart of the problem. In Europe the greatest demographic shock since the Black Death was suffered by France during the First World War. Life expectancy fell by about 16 years. By comparison, Botswana is facing an HIV/AIDS-inflicted fall in life expectancy of 31 years. Beyond the immediate human costs, HIV/AIDS is destroying the social and economic infrastructure on which recovery depends. The disease is not yet curable. But millions of lives could already have been saved had the international community not waited until a grave threat developed into a fully fledged crisis.

Child mortality

No indicator captures the divergence in human development opportunity more powerfully than child mortality.

Death rates among the world's children are falling, but the trend is slowing—and the gap between the rich and the poor countries is widening. This is an area in which slowing trends cost lives. Had the progress of the 1980s been sustained since 1990, there would be 1.2 million fewer children deaths this year.

Sub-Saharan Africa accounts for a rising share of child deaths: the region represents 20 percent of births worldwide and 44 percent of child deaths. But the slowdown in progress extends beyond Sub-Saharan Africa.

Some of the most highly visible globalization "success stories"—including China and India—are failing to convert wealth creation and rising incomes into more rapid decline in child mortality. Deep-rooted human development inequality is at the heart of the problem.

Richest 500

Debates about trends in global income distribution continue to rage. Less open to debate is the sheer scale of inequality. The world's richest 500 individuals have a combined income greater than that of the poorest 416 million. Beyond these extremes, the 2.5 billion people living on less than $2 a day—40 percent of the world's population—account for 5 percent of global income. The richest 10 percent, almost all of whom live in high-income countries, account for 54 percent.

An obvious corollary of extreme global inequality is that even modest shifts in distribution from top to bottom could have dramatic effects on poverty.

Using a global income distribution database, we estimate a cost of $300 billion for lifting 1 billion people living on less than $1 a day above the extreme poverty line threshold. That amount represents 1.6 percent of the income of the richest 10 percent of the world's population. Of course, this figure describes a static transfer. Achieving sustainable poverty reduction requires dynamic processes through which poor countries and poor people can produce their way out of extreme deprivation. But in our highly unequal world greater equity would provide a powerful catalyst for poverty reduction and progress toward the millennium development goals (MDGs).

What are the implications of the current global human development trajectory for the MDGs? We address this question by using country data to project where the world will be in relation to some of the main MDGs by 2015.

Gaps

The picture is not encouraging. If current trends continue, there will be large gaps between MDG targets and outcomes. Those gaps can be expressed in statistics, but behind the statistics are the lives and hopes of ordinary people. Human costs can never be captured by numbers alone. But our 2015 projection provides an indication of the scale of the costs. Among the consequences for developing countries of continuing on the current path:

- The MDG target for reducing child mortality will be missed by 4.4 million avoidable child deaths in 2015—a figure equivalent to three times the number of children under age five in London, New York and Tokyo.

Over the next 10 years the gap between the target and the current trend adds more than 41 million children who will die before their fifth birthday from the most readily curable of all diseases—poverty. This is an outcome that is difficult to square with the Millennium Declaration's pledge to protect the world's children.

- The gap between the MDG target for halving poverty and projected outcomes is equivalent to an additional 380 million people living on less than $1 a day by 2015.
- The MDG target of universal primary education will be missed on current trends, with 47 million children still out of school in 2015.

These are simple forward projections of current trends—and trends are not destiny. As the financial market dictum puts it, past performance is not a guide to future outcomes. For the MDGs that is unambiguously good news.

Action now

As the UN Secretary-General has put it: "The MDGs can be met by 2015—but only if all involved break with business as usual and dramatically accelerate and scale up action now." Some of the world's poorest countries—including Bangladesh, Uganda and Vietnam—have shown that rapid progress is possible. But rich countries need to help meet the startup costs of a global human development take off.

The 2015 projection offers a clear warning. To put it bluntly, the world is heading for a heavily sign-posted human development disaster, the cost of which will be counted in avoidable deaths, children out of school and lost opportunities for poverty reduction. That disaster is as avoidable as it is predictable. If governments are serious about their commitment to the MDGs, business as usual is not an option.

(Excerpts from the 388-page Human Development Report 2005.)

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Politicians' greed killing 'jueteng'

MEMENTO EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A Bontok boy holds jaw bones believed to have come from a Japanese killed by Bontok headhunters during World War II. The bones are being used as decoration for native gongs that are still being used by tribes in the province.

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SOLANO, NUEVA VIZCAYA—Politicians' lust for money has been killing the illegal numbers game, milking the local "jueteng" industry dry with their excessive demand for payola, a source here said on Thursday.

The source, quoting personnel involved in jueteng operations in the province, said the greed of some politicians may eventually cause the death of the illegal numbers game that the government has failed to curb for the past decades.

"Fortunately for [anti-jueteng crusaders], jueteng may die without them lifting a finger. It would be the politicians' own doing," a source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said.

Reports are rife that illegal bet collections continue in some areas of the province, which police officials describe as "guerrilla-" and "kangaroo-type" operations—meaning, clandestine operations with draws that hop from one venue to another.

Operations, however, have not been smooth, not only because of the vigilance of anti-jueteng crusaders here, the source said.

Quoting local jueteng operators, the informant said the illegal numbers game in the province had difficulty "taking off" because financiers were struggling to meet politicians' payola demands.

Seemingly ingrained in the minds of some unscrupulous officials, the source said, is the thinking that jueteng is a source of money that is "always overflowing and never running out."

"Some officials think that everything they ask for, they will get [from gambling operators]. They don't seem to understand that jueteng is also a business, and it takes some time before it can flourish," the source quoted gambling sources as saying.

He cited the case of a local official, who had imposed a "no-advance, no-draw" policy in his area. This means that jueteng operators will have to shell out a cash advance—usually P50,000—before draws are allowed to operate within his turf.

Another local official reportedly also collects large amounts of "cash advances" for his group, even before operations actually start.

However, the local jueteng management has been wondering if the money ever reaches all the intended recipients because some of them often complain, the informant said.

The racket has become so lucrative that even some politicians' family members are now "joining the party," the source said.

"I know of a politician's wife who learned about her husband's undisclosed income, that instead of admonishing him, she seems to be the one more interested now whenever payola is due for release. So she's always there, trying to sniff around," the source said.

ROUNDUP

Muslim rebs yield

COTABATO CITY—Two commanders of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), along with their 13 followers, surrendered to the military in Carmen, North Cotabato on Sept. 22. This brought to 145 the total number of rebels who returned to the folds of the law since January, according to Col. Ruperto Pabustan, chief of the Army's 602nd Infantry Brigade. Pakil Ayunan Acmad and Ali Mangco, of the MILF's 108th and 109th Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces, gave up because of lack of support from their leaders, Pabustan said. Acmad and Mangco also turned over three M-16 Armalite rifles, two Garand rifles, three M-79 grenade launchers and three homemade pistols. Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, said Acmad and Mangco were only affiliates and not organic MILF members.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

NPA reb surrenders

OZAMIZ CITY—A New People's Army (NPA) leader in Misamis Occidental surrendered to government troops on Sept. 21 and urged other rebels to follow suit, said Col. Oscar Lactao, commander of the Army's 10th Infantry Battalion. Samban Jalalon, alias Commander Bayan, 52, is team leader of the NPA's Samahang Yunit Pampropaganda (SYP) of the Front Committee Joji, which covers Misamis Occidental, Lactao said. Jalalon, whose family resides in Gala village in Tudela town, walked to Dalingap village in Clarin town and yielded to Army troops around 3 a.m. A military press statement quoted him as saying that joining the armed revolution is futile and was not the answer to the country's social ills.

Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

2 die in smashup

COTABATO CITY—At least two people were killed when the motorcycle they were riding rammed a jeep here early Friday, police said. Guiabar Galusan and Salik Mohammad were proclaimed dead on arrival at the Cotabato City Regional and Medical Center. Based on reports culled from the police blotter, the two victims were driving along Sinsuat Avenue when their motorcycle smashed into the jeep, which was on the opposite direction, at around 1 a.m. Initial investigation revealed that the two victims and the driver of the jeep, who fled after the crash, were apparently drunk.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Solon's aide killed

CABANATUAN CITY—An aide of Nueva Ecija Rep. Rodolfo Antonino was shot and killed by two men on Thursday night in San Leonardo town. Police said Luciano Hipolito, 60, infrastructure projects chief of Antonino, was inside his office at the LGH Construction Co. that he owned when armed men shot him. The suspects took Hipolito's bag and fled in a car. Hipolito, who bore eight bullet wounds, died two hours after he was taken to a hospital in San Leonardo.

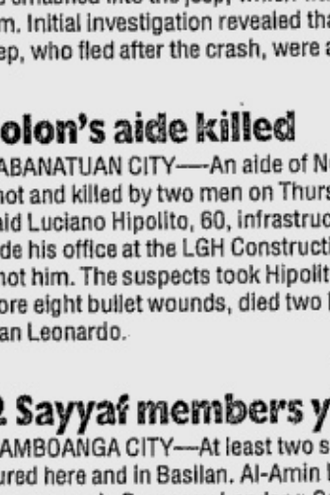
Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 Sayyaf members yield

ZAMBOANGA CITY—At least two suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits were captured here and in Basilan. Al-Amin Lahi Uddin, who was arrested in Sitio Bulinumpong in Barangay Landang Guwa in Sacol Island here, and Mustafa Kasim Arala alias Asing Arola, were apprehended in Isabela City. Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Ediliberto Adan said the bandit group is "on the run." "It has splintered into smaller groups to avoid the troops," he said. The Abu Sayyaf has also targeted fraternity members and young females, mostly out of school, for recruitment, said Supt. Angelito Casimiro, chief of the Western Mindanao police's intelligence operation. When asked about the reported recruitment of Christians by the bandit group, Casimiro said the Abu Sayyaf has only zeroed in on those who converted to Islam. "They are members of Balik Islam," he said.

Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Dutch mountaineer found



CALAMBA CITY—Rescuers have found a Dutch national who had been reported missing since Sept. 20 along a creek in Mt. Makiling in Los Baños, Laguna on Sept. 22. Los Baños Mayor Caesar Perez said Karsten Seemann, 40, was located by rescuers from the Municipal Action Center and Makiling Center for Mountain Ecosystems while walking along the Mulawin Creek. Perez said they were informed of Seemann's disappearance on Tuesday night by the manager of the hotel where the Dutch national was billeted.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Farmers shift to local seeds for less cost

BAGUIO CITY—THE REFORMED VALUE added Tax (RVAT) Law has convinced local farmers to shift to the use of locally-produced hybrid rice, which requires less imported fertilizers and pesticides, according to agriculture officials.

Assistant Secretary Romeo Recide, of the Department of Agriculture (DA), said the good news is that RVAT exempts fertilizers and pesticides as well as planting materials from the tax coverage.

During the Baguio leg of the RVAT roadshow, he said the law also exempts raw produce such as vegetables and *palay* from the coverage.

Cesar Rodriguez, regional director of DA-Cordillera, said farmers have been motivated to use local hybrid varieties due to their bad experiences with imported hybrids, which needed costly and harmful imported chemicals.

He said farmers tested seven local hybrid rice varieties for the past two years in the Cordillera.

Among these varieties were mestizo 1, mestizo 2, mestizo 3, SL 8,7,9, and Rizalina.

Rodriguez said farmers are beginning to appreciate the local produce after a series of pilot tests in their farms showed its potential yield.

In Tabuk, Kalinga, farmers have been investing in local hybrid seeds.

But aside from enhancing locally produced seeds, farmers in the region have been switching to organic farming to reduce the use of fertilizers.

Organic based farming is also identified as one of the mitigating measures of the VAT expansion.

Recide said the weakening peso and the rising prices of rice should not be blamed on RVAT but on factors such as calamities and bad weather.

He said the government would intensify the monitoring of prices of agricultural and fishery commodities to ensure that merchants would not reasonably overprice due to RVAT. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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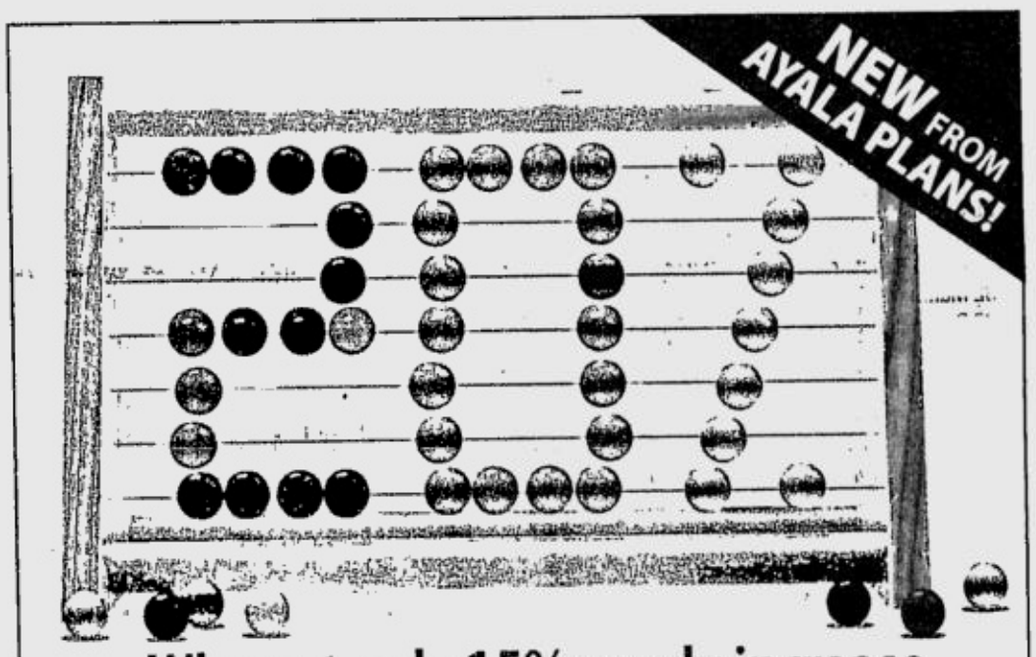

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Governor Migs: Accidental politician

SARANGANI GOV. MIGUEL RENE DOMINGUEZ was a last-minute replacement for his father, former Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Paul G. Dominguez, who withdrew his candidacy after his political rival questioned his residency status in court during the 2004 elections.

At the height of the campaign, the 28-year-old bachelor, known fondly as Migs, and former business executive mesmerized the voters with his candidness, openness and down-to-earth manner.

He won by a wide margin over his reelectionist opponent.

His entry into politics signaled the dawning of a new brand of politics in Sarangani.

Here are excerpts from an interview by INQUIRER correspondent Aquiles Zonio.

SARANGANI Gov. Miguel Dominguez with madaris students CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

What made you decide to join politics?

The belief that change is possible. I was presented with an opportunity and I grabbed it, knowing that I do not have any experience and that my chances of winning were slim ... It was about 70-30 in favor of my opponent. I joined politics because of my belief and determination that we could change the way we do things, the way the government was being ran.

What is your definition of politics?

Politics is good governance, showing that through politics, bureaucracy and government can actually work for the people.

What is the difference between being a businessman and a politician?

Business is where you hone your entrepreneurial skills. My biggest asset was not having any experience at all in the government or politics. I came in with a fresh mind, no preconceptions about how the government runs and so what I brought in to the government is what we call the entrepreneurial spirit.

Driving the bureaucracy to continuously reinvent the way we do things, how we run our business, which is [governance], which is service to the people and creating a culture shift from being bureaucratic knowing that once you are with the government [you will not be removed from it because of] civil service [eligibility] but really changing the culture to be more customer-oriented. During my first week in office, my policy statement was [to tell the employees I didn't want to see them sitting down in the office and waiting for the customer. We have to go to the customer].

Living up to that, I can say I've never called any official, any person into my office because I needed something. I always go to them if I need to discuss certain issues.

Does your experience as business executive help you in your job as governor?

It's the entrepreneurial spirit—knowing who your customers are. People have so many variables unlike in business where the variables are limited.

What are the most difficult challenges that you have encountered so far?

The number one challenge is restoring dignity and respect in public service. Second is, how to move people, the entire province to believe in your vision, inspire them to work extra mile and bring everybody together towards a vision, towards one goal. Part of that is restoring pride in the people. Once people have pride, I believe, anybody, given the responsibility, given the challenge, will succeed.

What do you think are the three leading problems besetting Sarangani?

First is the rural economy. Our province is very, very rich. However, many times because of lack of education, lack of new ideas, lack of workable models that can be seen or learned by many of our people, many of our farmers have been left to subsistence farming. In fisheries, we have been abusing our own resources thinking that [they] are limitless.

In agriculture, we've realized there's such a large gap between technology, the academe and the farmers. As a result, we will be fielding a battalion of workers who will be the link between the farmers and the academe, the scientists.

The second is the delivery of basic services. Funds [are] never enough so we are trying to learn to make use of what we have, maximizing [them] and really developing integrity and credibility ... so that we will be one of those provinces that will appeal to those who have funds.

The third is the lack of health care system. The government has been very, very ineffective in taking care of its people.

What are your priority programs?

First, privatization of health care programs. Second, education. Last week, I talked to the UP (University of the Philippines) School of Medicine. The main problem is in the next five to 20 years we will have no doctors to serve our province. The province will be supporting the UP School of Medicine program, identifying potential doctors [from] fourth year high school [students] in ensuring that in five to 10 years, we will have doctors serving our community.

From 20 scholars when I stepped in to the government, now we have 150 scholars.

We are not happy with what the national government is giving us, thus, we have to intervene. We are focusing on primary education, Grade 1 level to ensure that our students will be the most competitive, will be the best maybe not only in the region but hopefully in the entire Philippines one day.

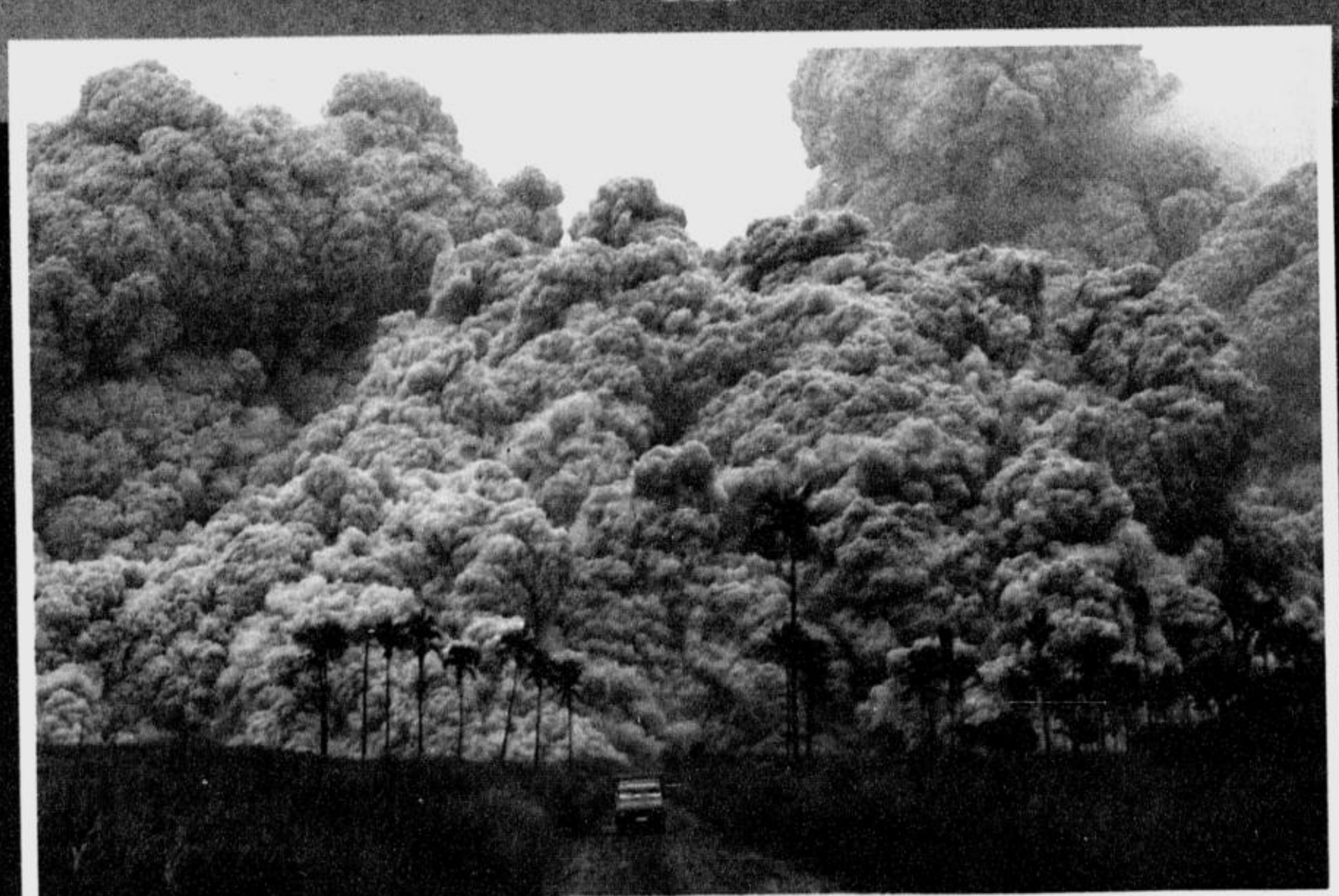
Third is [bringing] in the jobs. We have been selling, marketing and finding partners, conduits to our farmers.

So we are preparing our towns for development. Any barangay can become a municipality and any municipality can become a city. So we are preparing ourselves.

In terms of reforestation, we were able to access the likes of DBP (Development Bank of the Philippines) for our reforestation drive and reconvened the Community-Based Forest Management [councils]. We have also tapped several people's organization [for] capacity building and we were able to link up with the USAID (United States Agency for International Development) through eco-governance in capacitating our people.

Nature's wrath becomes one man's feat.

One man's feat is a community's hope.



Photojournalist Albert Garcia's award-winning image of the 1991 Mount Pinatubo eruption will be sold to collectors for the first time to benefit Hands On Manila.

The only lensman to capture in film the volcano's first eruption in over four centuries, the photo won for Garcia the **1991 World Press Photo Contest (Nature and Environment category)**—the first and, so far, only Filipino to do so.

Garcia's Pinatubo photo also has the distinct honor of being included in **Time magazine's** commemorative book, **"Great Images of the 20th Century,"** and **National Geographic's "100 Best Pictures 1888-2000."**

As a symbol of gratitude for the various accolades, Garcia is donating 30 percent of the sales to Hands On Manila's charity projects.

Reproductions of the prized photo will come in 12" x 18" Fuji YKL photo paper (loose print), to be sold at P5,000 each.

A sample will be on display at the "PDI Foto Expo: Digital Weekend" on Sept. 30-Oct. 2 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati City.

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'Officer' sought thieves' release

By Nancy Carvajal

WHY WOULD A police officer seek the release of three men arrested while driving a stolen vehicle?

Quezon City police said that an inquiry had been set to know why the officer, who is reportedly detailed with the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) try to intervene for the suspected car thieves.

According to the police, the three men: Joel Lim, 34; Rommel Madrigal, 26; and Edwin Madrigal 34, all of Sta. Quiteria , Caloocan City, were apprehended along Mahabagin Street, Teachers Village, in Quezon City at dawn yesterday.

A policeman privy to the case said subsequent investigation showed that the three had warrants for their arrest.

Stolen pickup

According to Supt. Agripino Agcaoili, head of the Quezon City Police District Station 9, the three were apprehended on a report that they had just stolen the Toyota Hilux pickup of a certain Nick Fonte.

He said a witness saw them breaking into and taking Fonte's pickup and called Patrol 117.

Records show that the theft was the 10th carjacking in the city this month.

"They are not ordinary suspects because a CIDG officer tried to intervene for their release immediately after they were brought to the headquarters," said a police officer privy to the investigation.

He said that a certain "Captain Alfonso" talked to the arresting officers to release the suspects but suddenly disappeared when told that press people were on their way.

Pedal power gains ground

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR THE LAST TWO DECADES, THEY HAVE been negotiating busy roads filled with trucks, buses, jeepneys and private cars on bicycles.

Jun Ureta, a 40-year-old art director for an advertising agency, owns a Delica Van while his wife drives a Toyota Corolla. But he pedals from his home in Marikina City to his office in Makati City.

Jose Borja, a truck driver at the Marikina City Waste Management Office, bikes not only to work but also to join his friends in picnics in Antipolo City and Tagaytay City.

He is 70 years old.

Ureta would bike to school in the morning, take a shower at the campus gym, leave his bike to Manang Babes, a vendor in one of the stalls in front of the university library, attend his classes, then bike home.

"I did not plan on owning a bike. It just happened," Ureta said in an interview at his office as he prepared to bike home though it was raining outside.

His mother used to ask him if biking was safe and if he was strong enough to travel on two wheels.

But she later got used to his mode of transportation.

There were times he had to pedal through waist-deep flood from his old home in Valenzuela City, a flood-prone area.

He would almost get knocked down as he juggled for space against trucks, but the experience only reaffirmed his passion for biking.

"During floods, I don't get trapped in traffic jams. Cars cannot get through deep floods. My bicycle can," he said.

He has had several accidents. He was hit by a truck, a passenger jeep, a taxi. A drunken man tried to hit him with a piece of wood but he managed to pedal out of harm's way.

He married a woman who drove a car and never rode on his bike. They moved to Marikina City and he got a job in Makati City. Now he has two sons that he is teaching to bike every weekend. Despite owning a van, he still bought more bikes.

He now has nine bikes, with prices ranging from P4,000 to P100,000.

Ureta bikes almost every day from home to work, a distance of about 15 kilometers, and back.

ADVERTISING man Jun Ureta (above, left) weaves his way through traffic along E. Rodriguez Avenue in Pasig City. Right photo shows truck driver Jose Borja on his way to work to Marikina City. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Occasionally, he would ride in his wife's car to bring the kids to school in Mandaluyong City then bike from there.

He would bike to the mall, bringing with him a change of shirt.

Threats of transport strikes don't bother him.

While his wife spends P2,000 a week for gasoline, he could go to work without bringing cash, especially since he also brings his own food.

But what really motivates Ureta to use the bike is having control over his schedule.

"With my bikes, I know how long it will take me to reach my office. I am able to follow my schedule," he said.

Borja did the math and decided he was better off on his bike. He would spend P30 every day for the six-kilometer commute from his home in Barangay Concepcion to their office near the Agora Market in San Juan.

"I get to save money. I can take shorter routes. And I am able to avoid traffic jams," he said.

"Only a few of us used bikes before. But maybe because of the recent fare increases, many of my friends also started using bikes," Borja said.

His 35-inch waistline and his toned legs and arms belie his real age, even if he is now the oldest employee in his department.

He bikes even when it rains, protected by a raincoat and a helmet.

He now has a racer he bought for P15,000 with his pension as a senior citizen.

"Biking could be one of the reasons I am not sickly, unlike some of my (contemporaries)," Borja, who also does not smoke, said.

Recently, several groups suggested biking as a way to survive the high cost of fuel.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority has started constructing bike lanes on secondary roads in Metro Manila.

Marikina City already had bike lanes since five years ago though they only total 30 kilometers.

Borja said the bike lanes were a great help to bikers, helping keep them safe.

Ureta said the construction of bike lanes in the metropolis would encourage more people to bike.

But even without bike lanes, people should try biking, he said.

Biking did not use expensive fuel, kept people fit, and was less stressful, Ureta said.

He noted that people with cars tended to be "tense and pressured."

Meanwhile, despite the rains yesterday, the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) launched the 3.6-kilometer pilot bike lanes on Xavierville Avenue in Quezon City.

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo unveiled the bikeway that started at the corner of Katipunan Avenue and Aurora Boulevard.

Dubbed the "Metro Padyakan," the pilot lanes are identifiable through their pink and white thermoplastic or heat-applied paint. It runs through Xavierville Avenue down to Chico Street, right to Anonas Street and left on K-6th Street in East Kamias.

Neon pink posts with signs reading "Metro Padyakan" and "Slow Down, Metro Padyakan Ahead" were installed on every corner.

A pink bicycle storage made of steel was set up under the Katipunan Flyover.

The Xavierville bikeway is among 10 routes to be opened in Quezon City.

"When the 200-kilometer bikeway network in Metro Manila is completed, we are hoping that more people would be encouraged to use bikes," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando told reporters.

Despite the rains, Fernando joined leaders and members of bikers groups in pedaling down the new bike lanes.

The "Metro Padyakan" project, said Fernando, would help minimize the volume of traffic, lessen pollution and promote good health.

He encouraged people to bike to school, work and even to the market.

An average Metro Manila resident travels some two kilometers a day. By using bikes, they could save as much as P25 per trip, Fernando said.

About P362.5 million will be needed to pave, paint and mark a 200-kilometer network of bike lanes.

Among the luminaries that attended the launch yesterday morning were Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte and Transportation and Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza.

Immigration building burns

By Tina G. Santos

FIRE SWEPT THROUGH THE Bureau of Immigration (BI) building in Intramuros yesterday morning but no important documents were lost, according to a bureau official.

No one was reported hurt in the two-hour blaze that burned offices on the right wing of the second, third and fourth floors.

Among the offices hit were the personnel, administration, intelligence and legal departments.

The offices of the board of special inquiry and foreign section laboratory were also partially damaged by fire that started at about 9:30 a.m.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez, whose office at the second floor was also partly damaged, said all important documents and records were intact.

"Only personnel files were damaged but all other important records and documents as well as computers containing significant files remain intact," Fernandez said.

He added that watch list, hold departure orders as well as illegal alien registration records were spared from the fire.

However, Fernandez said the bureau's computer data base was water-damaged.

"I already ordered the creation of a committee to work on the reconstruction of records, particularly those that were damaged by water, and to ensure the continuous delivery of service despite our offices' present condition," he told reporters.

Asked whether papers relevant to the flight of former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano were spared, Fernandez said: "The only record we have was when he left the country in 1993 and when he returned the following year, and the watch list order for him, that's all. But these are also intact."

Initial investigation said fire of still undetermined origin began in the office of Executive Director Roy Almoro, particularly at the ceiling of the kitchen area, on the second floor.

PASAY 'DRESS CODE'

Half-naked folk to pay full price

IT IS NOW A CRIME TO GO half-naked on the streets of Pasay City.

The local government through an ordinance has prohibited people from being in public places without clothes from the waist up.

Ordinance No. 3395, introduced by Vice Mayor Antonino Calixto, was enacted by the City Council in a bid to beef up the image of the city.

"Appropriate manner of dressing in the city needs extra attention by the city government," the ordinance said. "The [local government] firmly believes that all persons must be in proper attire while in public places or outside of their [homes]."

It prohibits residents from walking, running, jogging or even standing outside their homes half-naked.

Violators face fines from P200 to P1,000 and not less than 30 days of imprisonment. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

US cable provider decries theft

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation swooped down on the offices of two Mindanao-based cable television operators accused of illegally accessing and distributing foreign channels.

Maguindanao Skycable CATV Incorporated in Cotabato City and Z-Energy CATV Networks Incorporated in Butuan City are facing probes based on the complaint of US-based Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia, whose members include Star World, Star Movies, Star Sports, ESPN, AXN, MTV, Disney Channel, Discovery Channel and National Geographic. *Tina G. Santos*

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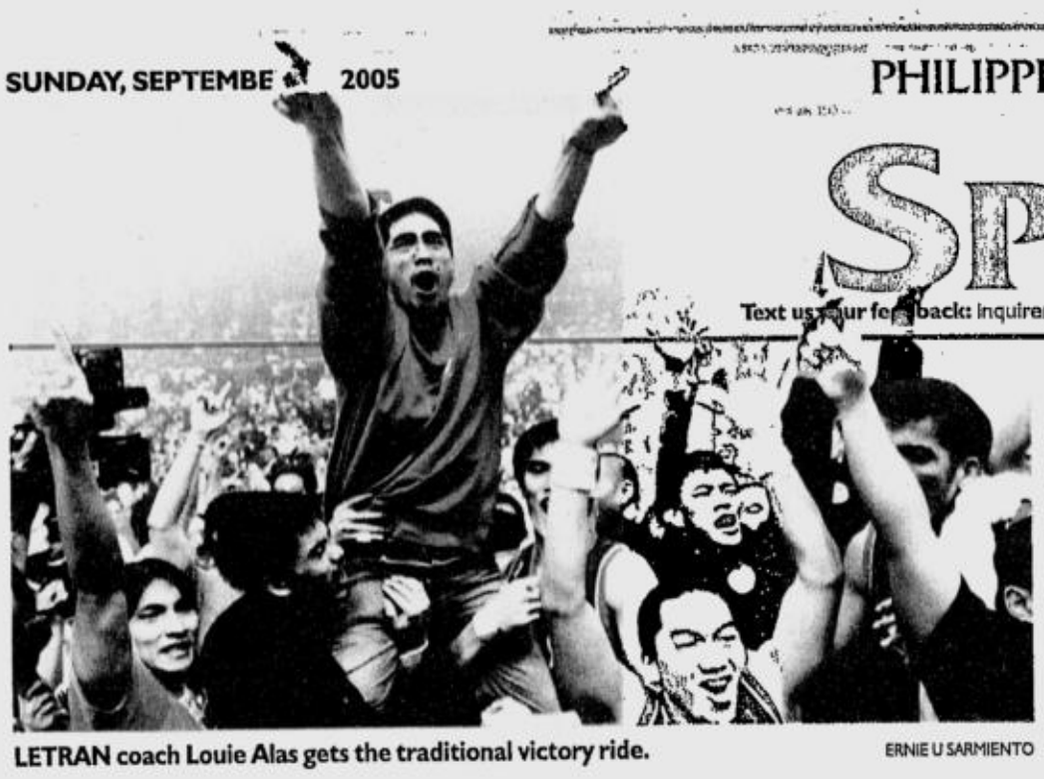


LETRAN coach Louie Alas gets the traditional victory ride. ERNIE U SARMIENTO

No need to motivate the Knights, says Alas

By Jasmine W. Payo

WHEN LETRAN COACH LOUIE ALAS MADE the difficult decision to cut main man Ronjay Enrile from his roster, there was no need to rouse his troops.

"I didn't need to motivate them," recalled Alas after his Knights outclassed defending champion Philippine Christian U Dolphins, 62-54, in a do-or-die battle last Friday to bag the title in the NCAA basketball tournament.

"They were the ones who told me that we can do it on our own," said Alas. "They worked hard in practice because I think they wanted to prove something."

Enrile, the vital cog in the Knights' 2003 championship run, sat out this season due to academic deficiencies.

But as it turned out, Alas' bunch of role players were all willing to step up.

"I was impressed with (Aaron) Aban and (Frederick) Rodriguez," said Alas. "They developed their leadership and communication skills on court. As the season goes on, I saw Aban and Rodriguez mature."

Aban, named as the Most Improved Player this season, averaged 14.3 points and 7.3 rebounds in the Finals.

Finals Most Valuable Player Boyet Bautista was similarly impressive in the best-of-three series, delivering 14.7 points and 5.7 assists each outing.

But Alas confessed that he demanded so much from his wards. Although it seemed that the Knights coasted through the elimination round with a 13-1 record, Alas revealed that not everything was smooth sailing.

"I was very hard on them," Alas admitted. "In terms of practices, this was the hardest year. There were problems off the court. We had fights especially when they can't give what I was asking for. We had practices that I walked out."

Apparently, though, the Knights never lost their focus. And Alas commended his players for the physical and mental toughness they've shown all season.

"We won this inside and outside the court," he said. "I'll just coach them in practice. But during the games, I told them to do their jobs on court. It was just all motivation."

Archers, Tams aim for repeat title duel

CONFIDENCE IS NO LONGER an issue for top-ranked Far Eastern U Tamaraws and defending champion La Salle Archers.

As perennial Final Four contenders, the Tamaraws and the Archers will gun for a second straight UAAP basketball title showdown when they take on their semifinal foes today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Bitter rivals La Salle and the Ateneo Eagles will battle at 1:30 p.m., while FEU will square off with the University of the East Warriors at 4 p.m.

"We just have to stay on track because we're almost there," said coach Franz Pumaren of his Archers, who finished in the top two with the Tamaraws to claim the twice-to-beat incentives.

Ateneo mentor Norman Black had been trying to figure out the La Salle puzzle after his Eagles absorbed two blowout losses against their arch nemesis.

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
9:30 a.m.—La Salle vs FEU (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—Ateneo vs UP (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo (Srs)
4 p.m.—FEU vs UE (Srs)

"It's an exam we haven't been able to pass in the UAAP," said Black of the Archers, the only team they haven't beaten this season. "It's a problem we have to solve. We haven't been able to get off a good start against them. Every time we play against them, they jump on us immediately and we have a hard time recovering from the initial impact."

Pumaren, though, seemingly had nothing more to ask after his Archers wrapped up the elimination round with a five-game roll.

"I'm so glad that we were able to achieve where we are right now," he said. "But of course, the mission is not yet finished. Any team for that matter—Ateneo and UE—can still make a comeback. The twice-to-beat advantage is a privilege and not a guaranteed seat in the Finals. That's why we still need to focus in order for us to be successful."

Coach Bert Flores also hoped that his Tamaraws would continue to show why they're the No. 1 team all season.

"We have to keep on working hard, do the same things and keep our killer instinct," noted Flores. "There's pressure because we're the top team so we can't relax."

The fourth-seeded Warriors, who dealt the Tamaraws' first loss (62-57) after seven straight wins, are going into the Final Four with back-to-back setbacks against the Archers and the Eagles.

"It's a tall order to beat FEU twice," said mentor Dindo Pumaren. "I told the boys to just think first of tying the series. But I'm happy that Marcy (Arellano) will be back. We had a hard time defensively in the last two games because he's the one handling the other teams' top scorers." *Jasmine W. Payo*

Thais not keen on overall title

OFFICIALS FROM VARIOUS SPORTS ASSOciations from Thailand came over last week and did the rounds on the venues to be used for the coming 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

Other than say that the Marikina pitch, where women's football will be played, does not conform to international measurements, the Thai officials really did not say anything outrageous about the venues.

What they said about their athletes who will come over practically belittled the worthiness of the Games as far as participants from other countries are concerned.

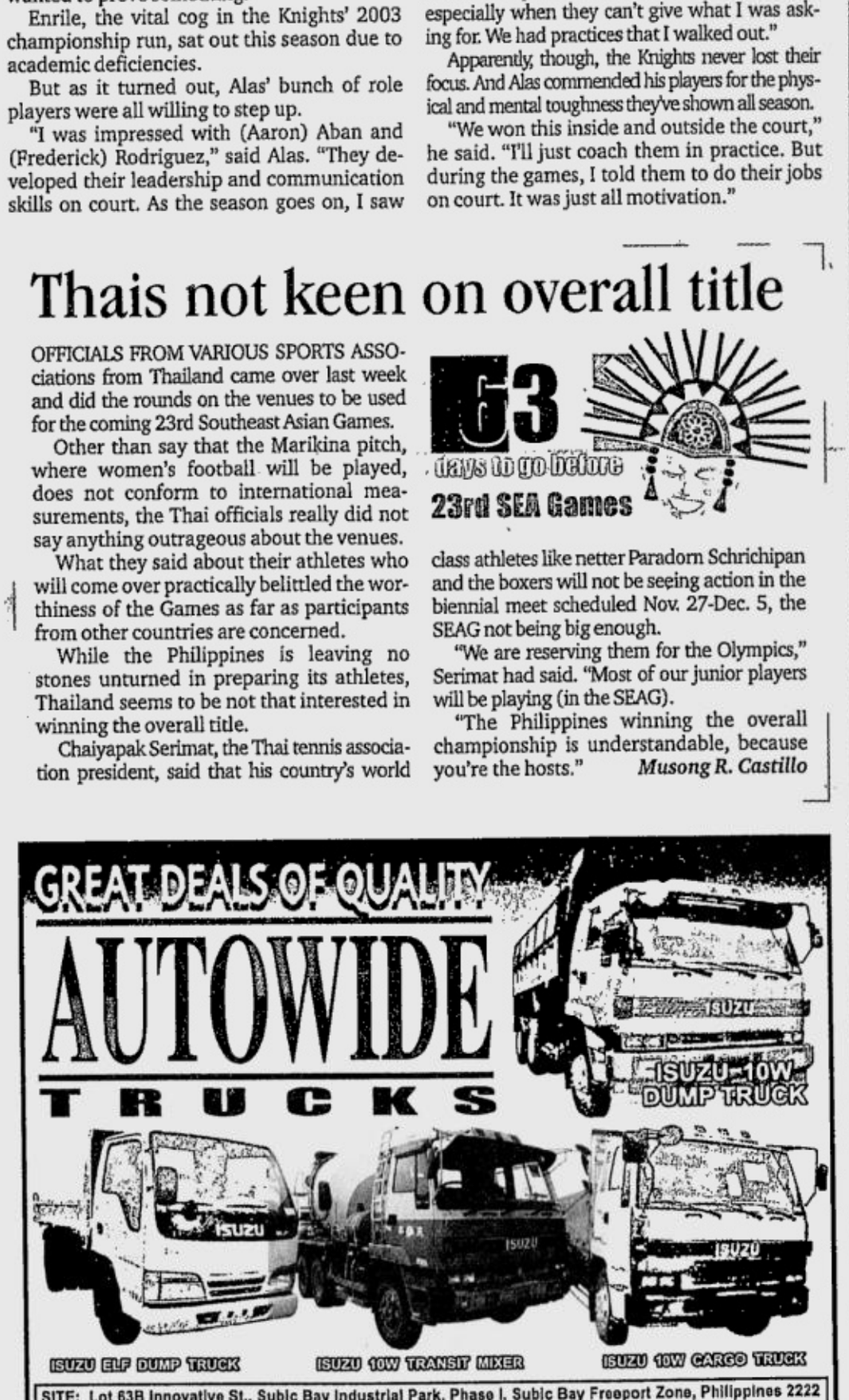
While the Philippines is leaving no stones unturned in preparing its athletes, Thailand seems to be not that interested in winning the overall title.

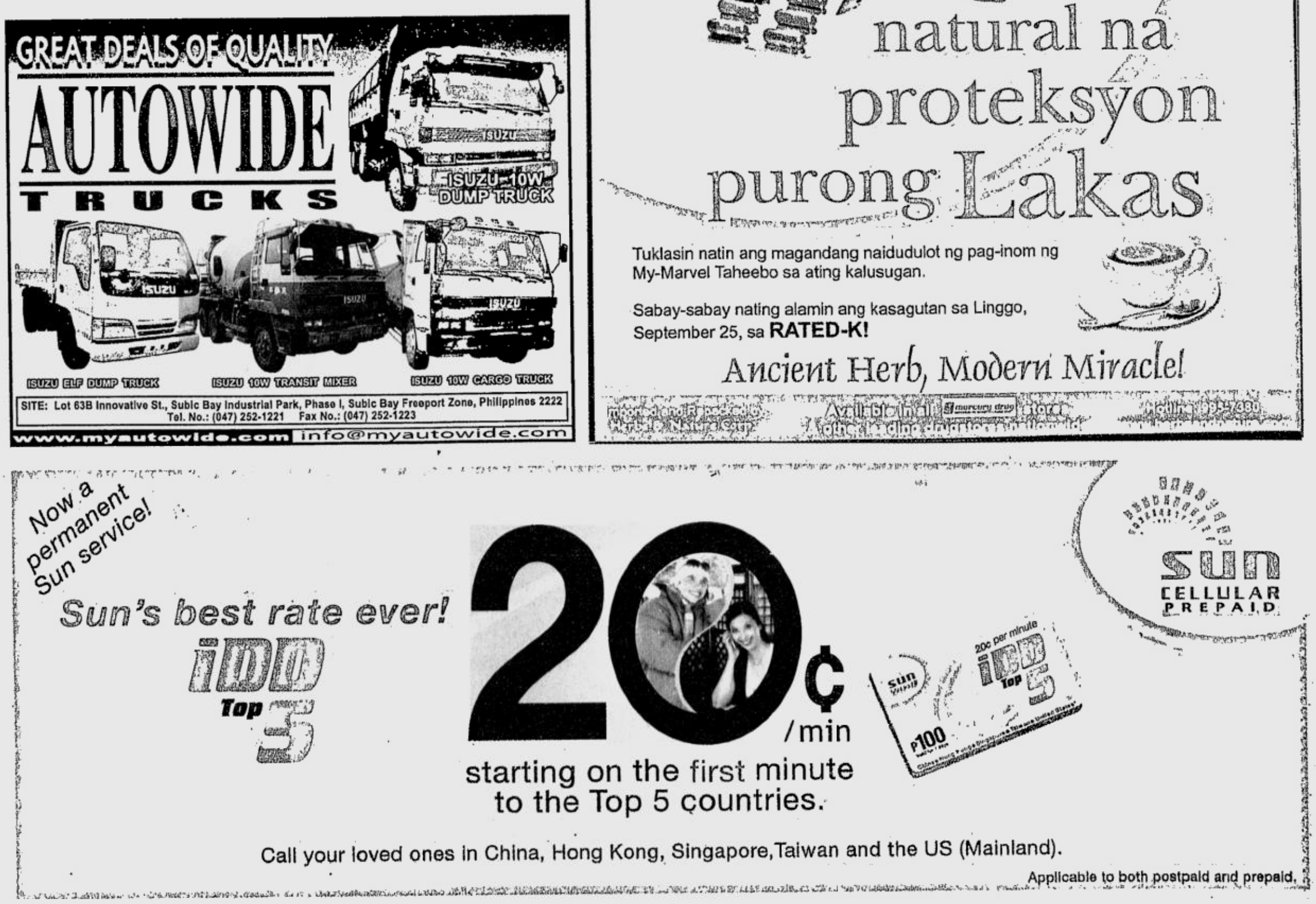
Chaiyapak Serimat, the Thai tennis association president, said that his country's world class athletes like netter Paradorn Schrichipan and the boxers will not be seeing action in the biennial meet scheduled Nov. 27-Dec. 5, the SEAG not being big enough.

"We are reserving them for the Olympics," Serimat had said. "Most of our junior players will be playing (in the SEAG).

"The Philippines winning the overall championship is understandable, because you're the hosts." *Musong R. Castillo*

63 days to go before 23rd SEA Games





Exploit edge, Pacman says

TOKYO—MANNY PACQUIAO SAID "YUKKA" Gejon, who has the edge in practically all departments, should be able to clinch the world minimum weight boxing title if he exploits the big pluses.

After spearheading a fantastic 3-for-3 KO parade by Filipino fighters in Los Angeles on Sept. 11, Pacquiao is here to root and to partly coach Gejon when he goes for the world title tonight.

"*Palagay ko may* champion *uli tayo, basta gamitin niya tangkad*, jab, *tukod*, pressure (I think we will have another world champion if he uses his jab and his longer reach)," Pacquiao said after the weigh-in rites.

He said Gejon should not be content with 1-2 combinations, but must go for a blitz.

Meanwhile, while there's growing confidence about a Gejon win, manager Rex "Wakee" Salud said he was just as nervous as he was on the eve of the title fights of three former world champs he had produced, namely Dodie Boy Peñalosa, his brother Gerry, and Malcolm Tuñacao.

YUKKA Gejon must go for a blitz.

TALE OF THE TAPE

	GEJON	NIIDA
Record	21-0-1, 13 KOs	18-1-3, 8 KOs
Stance	Orthodox	Orthodox
Age	26	26
Height	5'6 1/2	5'2
Reach	161 cm	151 cm
KO percentage	62%	45%

KNOCKOUT NEEDED

Gejon seeks title today

TOKYO—UNBEATEN ERIBERTO "Yukka" Gejon of the Philippines, the challenger, has knocked all but one of his last seven opponents. Japan's Yutaka Niida, the defending champion, has stopped only one of his last six foes.

This discrepancy however will take the sidelines when the tall ring craftsman from Cebu goes for the WBA minimum weight crown tonight in Yokohama, an hour by train from this drizzly, overcast capital.

The order is for Gejon, 26, to surpass himself. He must score a knockout.

If not, he has to deliver an overwhelming win on points.

Tasked to carve out a masterpiece in the hometown of his opponent, Gejon told the INQUIRER he has prepared long and very hard.

He has sparred a total of 124 rounds in a training that took three months, longest in his career.

"But we have to live by the realities of world boxing," advised Noli Flores, head of the GAB boxing division.

Flores, who has seen his share of success and frustration by RP fighters in foreign rings, said Gejon would go home empty-handed if he cannot come up with an earthshaking performance at the 20,000-capacity Yokohama arena.

Gejon tipped the scales at 104 lb, one under the limit in yesterdays weigh-in at the world-famous Korakuen Gym where Manny Pacquiao became the center of attraction of the big international crowd that included Jimmy "It's showtime" Lennon Jr.

Niida, 28, also weighed 104 lb.

In a companion main event, Hozumi Hasegawa defends the WBC bantamweight crown against Gerardo Martinez of Mexico.

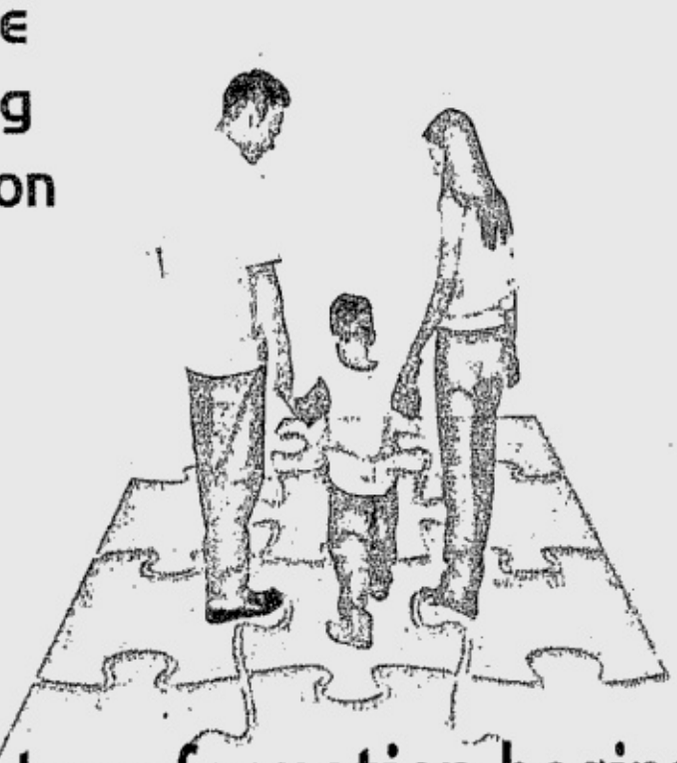
Niida, a native of Yokohama who drives to the gym in a brand new Cadillac, will be making the third defense of the crown he won by decision in July 2003.

Gejon motors to Yokohama with Pacquiao and members of the RP group after lunch today.

Gejon, who will get a $20,000 purse, noted that Niida starts out poised but often gets loose and wild in the middle rounds.

Puerto Rico's Luis Pabon will call the shots for the Niida-Gejon rumble. The three judges are Pinit Prayadsab of Thailand, Wan Soo Yuh of Korea and Medardo Villalobos of Panama. Supervising the fight is WBA's Renzo Bagnariol.

Philippine Parenting Convention



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* Keynote Speech by Mr. Anthony Pangilinan (Convention Chairman, PPC)
* Plenary Session of the MIND by Dr. Grace Koo (Assistant Professor, College of Education, UP Diliman)
* Testimony by Dr. Aurorita Roldan (Associate Professor, College of Home Economics, UP Diliman)

Afternoon Program

* Plenary Session of the BODY by Coach Chot Reyes (Head Coach, Philippine Basketball National Team)
* Testimony by Mrs. Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan (Multi-Award Winning Actress, Author of Mommytalk)
* Plenary Session of the SOUL by Pastor Clem Guillermo (Chairman, Family Commission, PCEC)
* Testimony by Mr. Francis Kong (Member of the Board of Advisers, Society of Educators for a Better Philippines)
* Program Synthesis and Learning Conclusion by Mr. Anthony Pangilinan

Hosted by Mr. Ardy Abello (Senior Associate Consultant, Businessworks)

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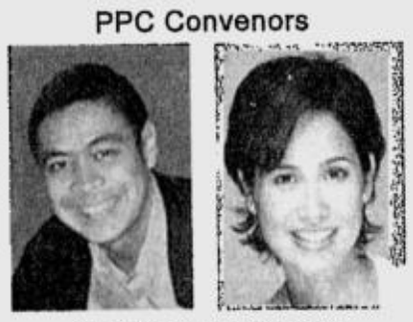

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Suico bows to Jauregui

WORLD BOXING COUNCIL NO. 3 RANDY "Komong Bato" Suico flubbed his second fight in the United States, absorbing a majority decision loss at the hands of ex-IBF lightweight boss Javier "Chatito" Jauregui in their 10-round bout yesterday at the USC Lyon Center in Los Angeles.

Reports from ringside indicated that Suico was tentative during the fight, and was dominated in the early goings with Jauregui landing overhand rights and counter-punching effectively. Suico picked up the pace in the later rounds, stalking his foe until the final frame.

Judge Chuck Hassett saw it 95-95, while Jack Reiss and Ray Corona saw it 99-91 for Jauregui.

Suico's loss brought his record to 23-2, 20 KOs, while Jauregui improved to 50-12-2, 34 KOs.

Meanwhile, another Filipino, WBC No. 5 flyweight Diosdado "Prince" Gabi, escaped with a fifth-round technical decision win over Mexican Jose Alfredo Tirado at the Stockton Civic Auditorium in California. Gabi improved to 26-2-1.

Salven Lagumbay, Contributor

Women boxers off to world tilt

THE PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S BOXING TEAM will try to show its readiness for the coming Manila Southeast Asian Games when it competes in the 3rd World Women's Championships in Moscow this week.

The three boxers, headed by 3rd Asian Women's tournament gold medalist Mitchel Martinez, left for Russia's capital yesterday.

Martinez, a lightweight, will be joined by Asian Women's tourney silver medalists pinweight Gretchen Abaniel and flyweight Annie Albania. They will be accompanied by coach Roel Velasco.

"This is a no-nonsense squad with a lot of experience and credentials," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president and delegation head Manny Lopez.

The team's trip is being funded by the FG Foundation and Ginebra San Miguel, with support from the PSC and Pacific Heights.

Team Merrel stays Enduro series champ

VICTORY IS SWEETER THE SECOND TIME around.

Proving that its feat last year was no fluke, Team Merrel moved past its rivals to retain its title in the penultimate leg of the Enduro San Mig Light Adventures Series 2005 last Saturday.

Team Merrel, composed of professional racers Thumbie Remigio, Jojo Macalintal and Claire Montemayor, endured the challenging tasks and finished the backbreaking race with a time of eight hours and 53 minutes in the elite category.

Team Merrel's troika took home the top prize of P60,000 along with premium items from San Mig Light.

The 31-year-old Remigio, a hard-core adventure racer who drew inspiration from his soon-to-be born child with partner Popo Nagtalon—said the race course is more challenging and exciting compared to last year when they also ruled the same category.

Trailing Merrel was Team AMCI Gaglers, which clocked nine hours and 16 minutes and bagged P30,000 cash prize along with San Mig Light items. Team Pro Tech settled for third in nine hours and 46 minutes.

In the novice category, Team Pare ni Juan clocked two hours and four minutes to cop the P15,000 cash prize. "Our preparation consisted mostly of decision and strategy-making," said team leader Robert Leoncio.

Team Bellevue Southside-Ingen of Manila and Team PMA Bravo of Baguio shared second place as they both registered two hours and five minutes. They took home a total of P10,000 cash prize plus San Mig Light premium items.

Mamaril plays big as Coke stops Gin

By June Navarro

BILLY MAMARIL PROVED TO BE BIG FOR a team with little player movements in the off-season.

The 6-foot-6 center banged in 11 of his 15 points during the crucial moments to lift Coca-Cola past Barangay Ginebra, 84-79, in a PBA pre-season encounter Friday at the Arellano University gym in Manila.

Mamaril's scoring splurge was highlighted by six straight baskets that broke a 68-68 count with four minutes to go, allowing the Tigers to regain control of the momentum going into the final stretch.

Acquired through a trade from the defunct Shell Turbochargers, Mamaril has beefed up a team in dire need of a backup post-up player to relieve Ali Peek and Poch Juinio in the paint.

It turned out, however, that Mamaril is much more than a second fiddle. He proved instrumental on containing Ginebra import Mustapha Hoff together with Alex Carcamo, Will Antonio and Peek.

Aside from Mamaril, the Tigers also snagged Carlo Sharma from the Turbochargers and playmaker Dennis Miranda in the rookie draft. Rookie Al Magpayo has yet to sign a contract with the Tigers.

So far, these players are the only new faces in the Tigers' roster along with newly installed coach Binky Favis when they plunge into the 31st season of the PBA starting with the import-spiced conference on Oct. 2.

Olivarez, Dy gain finals

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NEWEST FACES OF Philippine tennis continued to emerge from the horizon.

Teenage sensations Pablo Olivarez II and Denise Dy fashioned out thrilling victories to barge into the finals of the boys and girls singles competitions yesterday in the Phinma-ITF junior tennis championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig.

Olivarez, who eliminated the Australian top seed, carried on his impressive rise with a 6-3, 6-4 victory over Toshiya Suzuki, the No. 6 seed from Japan to arrange a title duel with Chinese Taipei's Lee Tung Han.

The Taiwanese, ranked No. 429 in the world, spoiled what could have been an all-Filipino party in the finals when he defeated second-seeded Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez, 6-2, 6-2, in the other semifinals match.

Disappointed over the loss of his compatriot, Olivarez vowed to give everything to get back at Lee, who will practically serve as his last tune-up match before embarking on the junior Davis Cup in Spain tomorrow.

"I just played my usual game and tried to be patient," said the 15-year-old Olivarez, who came from a family rich in tennis tradition. "I felt that the Japanese tried to win the game as fast as he can."

That, incidentally, was the opposite of what the Filipino netter had in his mind, settling down on the baseline and battling Japan's 16-under champion forehand after forehand to finish the match in 75 minutes.

"I'm happy to reach the finals, but I don't want to expect anything like winning the title because that will put pressure on myself. I'll just play my game and see what happens. I'll do my best," added Olivarez who is on his 10th ITF junior tournament this year.

Later in the day, the 16-year-old Dy displayed her range against Fil-Spanish Edilyn Balanga to fashion out a 6-2, 7-6 (7-3) triumph.

Herself a foreign-based Filipino having been raised in San Jose, California, Dy encountered stiff opposition from Balanga in the second set, scrambling from a 3-5 deficit before going back into the ballgame with four straight points.

But Balanga refused to roll over that quick and forced a tiebreak which Dy easily took control of to end the match in one hour and 20 minutes.

SPORTSWATCH

US X-Games on ABC Sports

MOTORBIKES conquering a tricky train, skateboards flipping into the air half a dozen times and bikes flying as they catapult from a quarter ramp. These extreme feats displayed by some of the world's thrill-seeking athletes fall under one roof in the US X-Games which will be shown by ABC Sports beginning Tuesday. On its 11th edition, the US version of the X-Games will feature the best motocross and BMX riders and skateboarders across the globe on ABC-5 from Sept. 27-30 at 4:30 p.m. Davie Mirra, the most accomplished athlete in X-Games history with 20 medals, will defend his BMX Park competition crown against Jamie Best wick, champion of the BMX Freestyle event.

Janiola-Pena bout on TV

FISTORAMA features this afternoon an exciting bout between world-rated light-flyweight Wyndell Janiola and promising Danny Pena. The bout was held at the Joe Cantada Boxing Arena of the Cantada Sports Center in Bagumbayan, Taguig, as the main event in a flyweight card promoted by Edgardo "Boy" Cantada. Fistorama is shown worldwide through ABS-CBN Global's The Filipino Channel/ Pinoy Central TV. Fistorama supported by Tanduay, PCSO and Mapecon is aired nationwide at 4 p.m., Sundays on RPN-9.

PBA offers all-conference tickets

THE Philippines Basketball Association is introducing its all-conference tickets that give its holders instant access to live games. This is on top of the Privilege Member Cards (PMCs) offered by the league for the past two seasons. The all-conference tickets are for games in the Araneta Coliseum and the Cuneta Astrodome for the 2005-06 Fiesta Conference and are being offered at a 20 percent discount. For details, call Gerry Mesias or Nestor Noblejas at 636-5320 to 21.

Cerezo squeezes past Guevarra

RICKY Cerezo started his quest for the Malaysia grand prize on a bright note following a hard-earned 6-2, 4-6, 7-6 over GL Guevarra to advance in the unisex 10-under division Saturday in the rain-marred North Luzon regional finals of the 2005 Milo Junior Tennis Cup here at the International Tennis Center. Cerezo towed along Jurrence Mendoza, a 6-1, 6-2 winner past Miguel Bustamante; while boys' 12-under campaigners Jose Lorenze Ferrer and Angelo Rivero moved into the next round of the event organized by CTW with support from Adidas and Olongapo Tennis Club. In the boys' 14-under class, Melgabar Dacanay ousted Justin Mendoza, 6-3, 6-3, and JV Guevarra routed Nathaniel Castillo 6-0, 6-2.

LGBA 7 – Stag slates 110 fights

THE grand showdown of prominent Luzon gamefowl breeders happens tomorrow via the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 7-Stag Derby" at the 17,000-seat and air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. All LGBA derbies will be sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc., Robichem, Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, Thunderbird Enertone and Vitarich Panabong. A total of 110 fights will be unleashed in tomorrow's first round eliminations (3- stag). Action starts at noon.The second round sizzles on Wednesday and the finals on Oct. 3. Early favorites are the entries of former Congressman Peping Cojuangco, Romy Tan, Manuel Lui, Edwin Bacud, Biboy Enriquez, Bobby del Rosario, Boy Gamilla, Jun Sevilla, Dong Chung, Marcel Julao, Anthony Lim, Boyet Plaza, Raffy Campos, Edwin Aranez, LGBA president Boy Diaz and Boy Marzo. The LGBA will stage three 7- stag derbies to determine the 2005 Breeder of Year. Manuel Lui of Pangasinan won the 'Breeder' award last year. For details, call 926 -7808, 924 -5072 and 0920 -5851940.

Big field seen in GCAP derby

A SELECT group of 35 bigtime cockers and breeders are joining the third leg of the crowd –drawing Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5 - stag derby" on Tuesday at the newly opened San Juan Coliseum. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. With more than 85 fights lined- up on Tuesday, the event will start at 4 p.m., said GCAP founder Patrick Antonio. Participants must submit their entries tomorrow at SJC office, from 2- 9 p.m. and may contact 725 -5665, 7255369 and 7277086 (look for Ariel). Six 5- stag derbies are lined- up by GCAP this year, and the highest pointer after the series will win the Stagfighter of the Year award. Pol Estrellado of Laguna (PE Farms) topped the first leg while Pete Rivera of Pampanga ruled the second leg last Sept. 21, when his San Juan Collseum entry tallied 4.5 points. Meanwhile, San Juan Coliseum also presents the LCC 5- stag derby on Oct. 1, with veteran cocker Louie Cua as host.

World champ shooter gives clinics to nationals

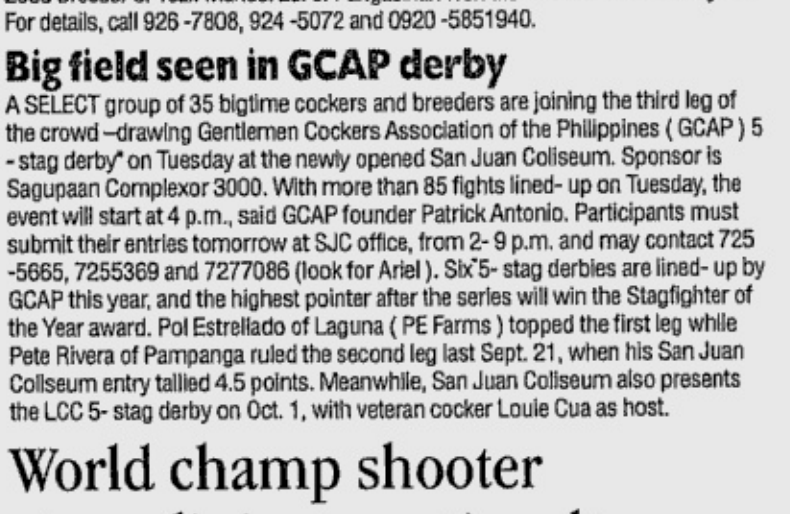
WORLD CHAMPION AND ATHENS Olympic medalist Adam Vella of Australia conducted a three-day clinic in Manila for top Filipino trap shooters, who are preparing for the 23rd Southeast Asian games here.

The Filipinos, who are also vying in the Seasa (Southeast Asian Shooting Association) championships in Malaysia on Sept. 26-Oct. 3, now train at the PNSA Olympic trap and skeet shooting ranges in Muntinlupa City.

Vella, a Beretta-sponsored trapshooter who uses the competition proven Beretta DT10 over and under shotgun, came here on the invitation of the trapshooters, led by Andrew Poblete.

Vella recently visited the Beretta Showroom of Clay&Feather International Inc., exclusive distributor of Beretta in the Philippines.

Beretta shotguns have built a reputation worldwide for having won more medals than any brand in Olympic and international clay shooting competitions.



WORLD champion and Athens Olympic medalist Adam Vella of Australia holds a Beretta shotgun. With him, from left, are Adam Jimenez III, Alex Lichaytoo, Clifford Lichaytoo, Andrew Poblete and Raul Arambulo, president of Clay&Feather International Inc., exclusive distributor of Beretta in the Philippines.

Parica shocks Reyes

FILIPINO LEGEND Jose "Amang" Parica and former world champion Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan bested compatriots Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante, respectively, Friday night in the 30th Annual US Open 9-Ball Billiard Championships at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Virginia.

It was the fifth straight win for Parica and Pagulayan in the $200,000 tournament which drew 256 players from 30 countries.

The 56-year-old Parica, who led the "Filipino Invasion in the US Pool Circuit in the '80s," took a 5-2 lead, but Reyes rallied to within 10-9. He missed his serve in the 20th frame, allowing Parica to seal the victory.

Parica, the 2004 world pool champion, will face Englishman Nick Van Den Berg, winner over American Charlie Bryant, in the next round.

Filipinos Marlon Manalo, Warren Kiamco and Deomark Alpajora bowed out of contention after tasting their second defeat.

Marlon Bernardino, contributor

McKinley Firebird triumphs

CROWD FAVORITE McKinley Firebird of hotelier—sportsman Biboy Enriquez and Rep. Jing Paras emerged as champion Thursday night in the National Cockers Association (NCA) 7-stag derby at Makati Coliseum.

McKinley Firebird, which piled up six wins and one loss, bagged the solo championship after Rep. Ronnie Puno's Wild Wing Sundance lost its seventh fight.

It was a double victory for Enriquez and Paras, whose mountain- bred and early —maturing Kelso Sweater stag registered the fastest winning time of nine seconds flat in the final round.

So overpowering was Enriquez's fighters, that five of his victories were registered in less than 20 seconds.

Aside from Wild Wing Sundance, also with 5- 2 (win-loss) slates were VGB Excalibur of Vice Gov. Boyet Joson, Binangonan of Gov. Ito Ynares and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco and EYB Air Assault of Ampil Brothers.

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GRAND DRAW: March 19, 2006

WHO ARE QUALIFIED TO JOIN:
Any individual who is 18-year old above with a valid entry.

HOW TO JOIN:

1. Submit a proof of purchase of any one of the six participating products.

PRODUCT BRAND	PROOF of PURCHASE REQUIRED
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Thunderbird Multi-Grain	one kilo pack
Bexan XP	one box
Amtyl 500	5 pcs. Blister packs
Voltplex KQ	5 pcs. Blister packs
Vionate	one sachet

2. The proof of purchase for the one kilo pack, one box & one sachet should be at least 3/4 in size to be considered as valid.
3. On a piece of paper, write your name, address, birthday, your signature; plus the name & address of the poultry supply store where the purchase was made.
4. Put the piece of paper and the proof of purchase inside a white legal size envelope and mail or send thru courier to:
"ANGAT SARADO Raffle Promo"
c/o The Cockhouse Corporation, #17 Diego Silang St., Project 4, Quezon City.
5. No available drop boxes or receiving outlets in Visayas & Mindanao areas.
6. Weekly draws shall be held every Sunday at 4:00 p.m. starting Sept. 18, 2005. Only entries received until 5:00 p.m. every Saturday of each draw date will qualify for the draw. Weekly draws shall be held at the office of Cockhouse Corporation,17 Diego Silang St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
7. Non-winning entries for the weekly draw will not be included in the succeeding weekly draws but will automatically qualify for the grand draw.
8. The grand draw is on March 19, 2006 at 4:00 p.m., (Cut off period: March 15, 2006, 5:00 p.m.) to be held at the office of The Cockhouse Corporation located at #17 Diego Silang St., Proj. 4, Q.C.
9. PRIZES SPECIFICATIONS:

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Three winners per draw, one quality rooster per winner.

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- Prize 1: Three (3) winners of Minami Appliance Showcase worth P15,000.00 each showcase (one showcase per winner)
- Prize 2: Ten (10) winners of quality Local TRIOS (one rooster & two hens) worth P45,000.00 each Trio (one quality local Trio per winner)
- Prize 3: Three (3) winners of quality Imported TRIOS (one rooster & two hens) worth P80,000.00 (one quality imported Trio per winner)

Important: All prizes are not convertible to cash and non-transferrable.

10. A participant can only win one weekly prize for the entire promo period. If his/her name is drawn again in the succeeding weekly draw, he/she is automatically disqualified and another entry shall be picked. On the grand draw, a participant can only win once. If his/her name is drawn again, he/she gets the prize with higher value.
11. Winners will be notified thru registered mail, TV announcements from weekly program TUKAAN (aired over Channel 13 every Sunday at 12 noon), and thru print media partners Sabong Stars, The Fighting Cock & Pit Games magazines.
12. Period of redemption is within sixty (60) days from the date the registered mail was received by the winner. The notification letter will include the procedures in claiming the prize, especially for winners residing outside the Greater Manila Area, Central Luzon and Rizal Provinces.
13. Winners residing in the Greater Manila area (GMA), Central Luzon and Rizal Provinces can claim their prizes at the office of The Cockhouse Corporation. However, if the winner is from North & South Luzon, Visayas or Mindanao Area, the Cockhouse Corporation will arrange and identify a much nearer place for him/her to claim the prize. The details or instructions will be mentioned in the registered mail.
14. In claiming, the winner must present the registered mail he/she received and any two (2) valid IDs such as driver's license, passport, company ID, GSIS card, SSS card, etc. The 20% tax of prizes exceeding P10,000.00 shall be paid by the winner. The Cockhouse Corporation will not shoulder the travel expense and other expenses incurred by the winner in claiming his/her prize.
15. Employees of Roostermedia Productions, The Cockhouse Corporation, Sarimanok Feeds Co.,Inc., Thunderbird, Univet Agricultural Products, Inc., Excellence Gamefowl Specialists, and Novartis Healthcare Phils. and their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the raffle.

Watch TUKAAN & SULTADA, hosted by Emoy Gergonia, to know the participating products for the week and for the announcement of winners.

PER DTI-NCR Permit no. 4535 series of 2005

Centro, Celebrity shuttlers gain quarters

POWERHOUSE CENTRO ATLETICO, Celebrity Sports and darkhorse Star Smash scored two victories each yesterday to lead the march of the favorites into the quarterfinals of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-club Badminton Cup Year 2 North leg at the Club 650 in Libis.

Centro Atletico mastered Quezon City Sports Club and Ace Badminton Center in Group 2 while Celebrity Sports posted contrasting wins over Smash Power and host Club 650 in Group 1 of the tourney co-presented by Mizuno, Smart: Simply Amazing and INQUIRER Badminton.

Star Smash secured a place in the playoff rounds by topping Group 4 at the expense of Chut's and Yellow Feather. Hemady, proving to be the team to watch, topped Group 2.

The top two teams in each group advanced to the knockout matches today.

Also taking the second slots in their respective groups were Club 650, Badminton Sports Center, QCSC and Chut's.

The other supporters of the tourney are Pinnacle Health Pointe & Pinnacle Spa, Hero, Viva Mineral Water, Powerade and Wilson as the official shuttlecock. Media partners are Solar Sports, Wave 89.1 and Jam 88.3, while Marco Polo Davao is the official hotel for the Mindanao leg.

In the day's featured match, Centro Atletico served notice of its awesome power by beating QCSC. Atletico secured the win after Marife Durana and Beth Pulido beat Rommie Tan and Noreen Go, 15-10, 15-7, in the ladies' doubles then Jofer Velez-Howard Vitas bundled out Adrain Co-Kerwin Tiu in the men's doubles, 15-13 15-11.

Elain LaO and Bogs Simeon averted a sweep when they took the mixed doubles against Emi Jorge and Jaime Ramos, 6-15, 15-11, 15-7.

US PLAYER Tiger Woods celebrates a birdie putt on the fourth hole during his fourball match at the Presidents Cup golf tournament. Woods, paired with teammate Jim Furyk against the International duo of Stuart Appleby and Mark Hensby from Australia, finally won a point but failed to help the US wrest the lead. REUTERS

PRESIDENTS CUP

Internationals keep slim edge

GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA—MORE GREAT PLAY FROM RETIEF GOOSEN AND ADAM Scott helped the International team keep their slim lead over the United States at 6½-5½ after better-ball matches in the Presidents Cup on Friday.

Goosen and Scott remained perfect at 2-0, along with Justin Leonard and Scott Verplank who prevented the International team from an even larger lead by rallying to win their match, 2 and 1, against Trevor Immelman and Mike Weir.

Also, Internationals Michael Campbell and Vijay Singh failed to capitalize on great opportunities at the 18th hole, both of them settling for halves.

Campbell's wedge to the 18th hit the pin and rolled back into the rough, then his belly wedge rimmed in and out.

Singh, playing with Tim Clark, stuffed a wedge into 3 feet for birdie on the 17th to square their match, then had a chance to beat Fred Funk and Stewart Cink when he hit a towering shot out of the rough to 15 feet. But the birdie putt never had a chance, dipping well below the cup for a halve.

Still, it set the stage for what should be a pivotal third round on Saturday with five alternate-shot matches in the morning and five better-ball matches in the afternoon.

"With a 36-hole day, one side can get a lot of momentum going," Leonard said.

The crowd warmed up to the action, especially after a 1½-hour storm delay as all the matches were on the back nine. The fans were far more vocal in the afternoon, as loud cheers rang out at Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, with only murmurs and grudging applause whenever the International team made a putt.

Some even cheered when Campbell missed an 8-foot birdie putt to stay 1 up on the 17th hole.

"That's all part of the game over here in America," the New Zealander said. "A guy said to me over the putt, 'Miss the putt.' It's pretty unfair. But once again, it's actually a good thing for me personally. It really keeps me going."

It fired up the Americans, too, especially after they struggled just to stay in the game.

"It's contagious," Chris DiMarco said.

Even so, US captain Jack Nicklaus was disturbed by a gallery that ignored the International team, and even spoke to the fans at one point.

"I said, 'Hey guys, you can root if you want to for the American team, I think that's fine, but when the International team hits a good shot, I think they deserve a round of applause in appreciation,'" Nicklaus said. "Nick O'Hern hit about a 25-footer and you could almost hear a pin drop."

O'Hern and Peter Lonard easily beat Davis Love III and Kenny Perry, leaving that duo 0-2.

Adam Scott carried the load in his and Goosen's match against David Toms and Fred Couples, and the International pair raced to a 4-up lead through six holes. The Americans tried to peck away at the lead, and got the deficit down to one hole until neither Couples nor Toms could manage a par on the 15th hole.

Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk were the last match out against Australians Stuart Appleby and Mark Hensby, mostly to give Furyk time to heal his sore ribs. *AP*

Be it the US Frances just

BONDAD: Raring to represent the country ROGER

Yankees fan str

NEW YORK—DEREK JETER AND ROBINson Cano hit back-to-back home runs to lead off the game, propelling the streaking New York Yankees to a 5-0 win over the Toronto Blue Jays in American League play at Yankee Stadium on Friday.

Shawn Chacon allowed just three hits over eight shutout innings for the Yankees, who won their fifth straight game and for the 11th time in their last 12 outings.

"Every game is huge for us," Chacon said.

"Whether it's a 5-0 win or a 7-6 win, I don't think it matters, just as long as we win ballgames."

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Battle of the Courts

The National Interclub Badminton Championship Year 2

SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2005

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AUGUST 13-14 (West Drive Badminton Center)
East Eliminations Champion **Valle Verde Country Club**
Runner-up **Myan's Badminton Center**

AUGUST 20-21 (The Zone Badminton Center)
Central Eliminations Champion **The Zone**
Runner-up **Power Smash**

SEPTEMBER 3 (Davao Holiday Spa)
Mindanao Eliminations Champion
Smash Ville Fitness Center

SEPTEMBER 3 (Metro Sports Badminton Club)
Visayas Eliminations Champion
Portside Badminton Plaza

SEPTEMBER 10-11 (Alabang Racquet Club)
SouthEliminations Champion **Alabang Country Club**
Runner-up **Alabang Racquet Club**

SEPTEMBER 17-18 (Feathers N Strings)
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Gift

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

(Prologue: This day is for 80-year-old plus fellas and so, birthday greetings go to Porfirio Directo Della, who turned 84 yesterday. He had it celebrated with the folk of Nueva Ecija. Booze flowed, goat meat served with gusto.

A while back, Tata Piryong thought he discovered heaven in America. But the son who brought him there helped him open his eyes.

"Dad, your heaven is right there in your roots," the son counseled the father. "Go home to Cuyapo."

Percy, the son, will himself soon be back—for good, that is. A house by the beach in Candon, Ilocos Sur; is being rushed for his homecoming from faraway Sacramento.

With that kind of setting, Percy, who can write, may yet finish a novel in Candon. Hemingway's "The Old Man and The Sea" has always been his all-time favorite. Percy may yet title his opus "The Untold Saga of Tata Piryong in America.")

***

"I FEEL GOOD."

A famous Motown song has that for a punch line.

I felt good, so good, some two weeks ago because something unbelievable happened to me. The day it happened, I kept belting that line. In the showers, mostly, it went on and on and on. I feel good.

No, I didn't win the lotto. I would have flown immediately to Lucerne if I did. Lucerne's Mt. Pilatuz, Boni's current flame, I haven't seen in 23 years.

Neither did I win the sweepstakes. I would have motored immediately to Manleluag if I did. The medicinal, heaven-sent hot spring there I haven't touched in nearly a decade.

I felt good because a milestone like no other came into my life.

It was, for all intents and purposes, a gift that is as priceless as Mona Lisa.

There could never be a portrait of this manna. For, even as it was man-made, God had stamped his approval on it.

C'mon, fellas, explain to me this phenomenon, or this crazy thing called love.

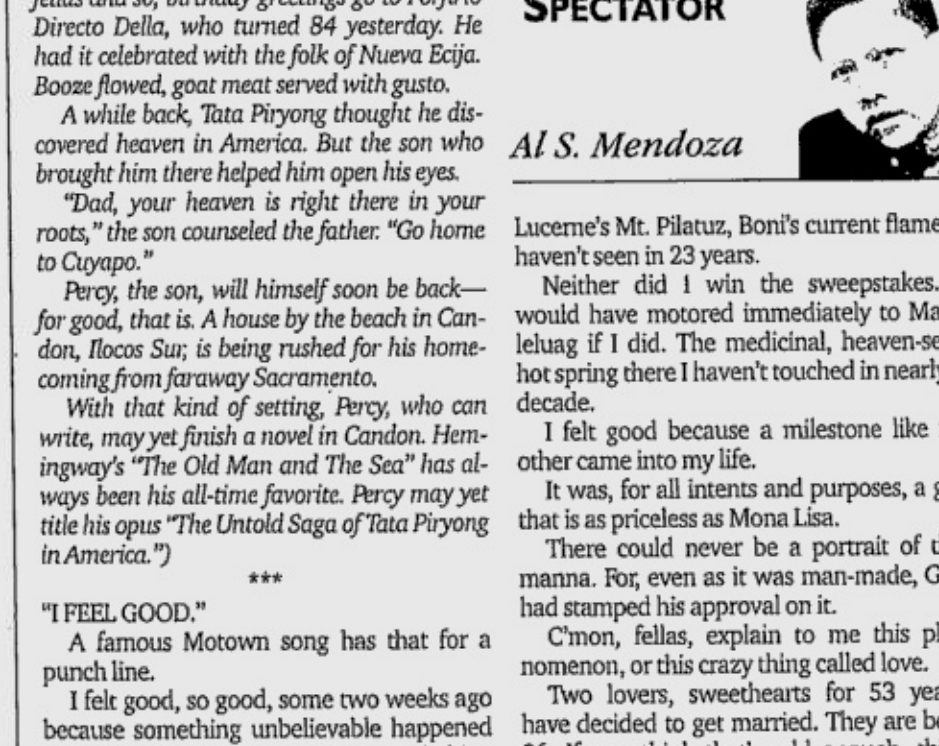
Two lovers, sweethearts for 53 years, have decided to get married. They are both 86. If you think that's odd enough, think again.

They got me as their godfather.

What have I done to deserve the honor?

"You and another chap are the only spon-

Dance troupe re



SALINGGAWI Dance Troupe members celebrate a fourth straight crown. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

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Open or SEA Games, can't wait to tee up

Musong R. Castillo

NOEL BONDAD WILLINGLY GAVE up his drive to play the game of golf when his then toddler daughter, Frances, first picked up clubs of her own five years after tugging along in rounds and driving ranges.

"I remember giving in," Noel told the INQUIRER during Frances' practice yesterday at Villamor. "We can't afford to have two people [in the family] playing golf [in Australia] and the father's instinct in me was to give up the game and let my daughter play."

MARGALLO

That was seven years ago, when Noel, who was supposed to babysit for his eldest child while practicing, allowed Frances to hit some balls in the far end of the Cumberland driving range.

Lo and behold, Frances, without having any formal introduction to the game, was hitting shots to unbelievable distances.

As it turned out, she was a natural who needed just a little nurturing.

"That was 10 days after my 10th birthday, I remember that well," Frances, a spearhead of the national women's team for the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, said.

Frances got her first half-set of US Kids' clubs the following day and one question, which Noel was asked—and still hasn't answered his daughter until now—was: "Can I go and play in the US Open tomorrow?"

The young Bondad has not yet earned an invitation to play in the US Open, but the 17-year-old has gone places in so short a time. She won the RP Ladies' Amateur last year and will now represent the Philippines in the coming Games after securing her passport recently.

"I'm excited," Frances said with the usual giggle of a teener. "Playing for my country is the best thing that can happen to me, this early in my career. I've prepared long and hard for this and I won't let my countrymen down."

Shrugging off jet lag after arriving Wednesday afternoon, Frances met National Golf Association of the Philippines officials Luisito Fernandez and Jake Ayson yesterday before plunging down to work.

"I know that the SEA Games is a big tournament and I just can't wait to tee it up," Frances said.

Bondad will be joined in the RP Team by Anya Tanpinco and Jayvie Agojo, the reigning RP Am champ.

The SEAG women's golf tournament will have three players playing each day with the best two scores to count. The venue will be the Manila Golf Club inside posh Forbes Park, the same course where Agojo and Bondad mixed it up toe-to-toe in a final round of the Ladies' Amateur to remember.

The SEAG is not the US Open, all right, but definitely, this is one tournament which will help Frances achieve her ultimate goal.

Lea leads Para Games' opening

FILIPINO BROADWAY STAR LEA SAlonga will highlight the opening ceremonies of the 3rd Asean Para Games on Dec. 14 at the historic Rizal Memorial Track Stadium.

Salonga will sing the theme of the event and will join more than 1,500 dancers during the opening show.

"We expect to open the Asean Para Games with a bang with this festive opening ceremonies and with the intention that all week long, competitions will be as exciting and heated among the region's best differently-abled athletes," said Michael Barredo, chairman of the Philippine Asean Para Games Organizing Committee.

Programs and Ceremonies Committee chairman Arnold "Ali" Atienza, son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and chief of the Manila Sports Council, said Tony Fabella, considered as one of the country's best stage choreographers, will direct the ceremonies.

Barredo, the Asean Para Sports Federation board chair and recently elected president of the 113-nation member International Blind Sports Federation (IBSF), thanked Salonga, who rose to world fame in theater through the musical "Miss Saigon," for helping add impact to the event.

Entitled "The Power of My Dream," the theme song was written and arranged by Gerard Salonga, Jose Javier Reyes, Lani Macaraeg and Marvin Querido.

To be staged after the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in the country this November, the Para Games are backed by the PCSO, Philippine Sports Commission, PLDT-Smart, Systems Technology Inc., Philpost, Pfizer Inc., Red Ribbon, Philspada, the City Government of Manila, and various national government agencies.

SALONGA

HAIL THE CHAMPS
The Philippine Daily Inquirer basketball team celebrates after winning the Division II title of the San Miguel Corporation Media Invitational basketball tournament yesterday at the Meralco Gym. The INQUIRER squad, which joined the long-running league hosted by the country's food and beverage giant for media organizations, routed the Manila Bulletin, 81-66, for the title. After a tight first half, the INQUIRER squad went on a tear in the third quarter to fashion the rout. The members of the squad are (seated, left to right) Rudy Esperas, Jerry Ruiz, Erik Arazas, Jim Guiao Punzalan (foreground), Karl Sumbeling, Ryan Lim, Sonny Cruz and Gilbert Rago. Other members are (standing, left to right) Ernie U. Sarmiento (coach), Gelly Badocdoc, Joel Macawile, Roy Mendiola, Bong Viray, June Navarro, Francis Ochoa, Genie Lagman and Bodeng Valencia. The team was supported by McDonalds.

reak, keep lead over Sox

w York's hot streak has allowed the es to take a one-game lead over the n Red Sox in the AL East, with both having nine games left to play.

e Red Sox kept pace with a 6-3 win at ore.

leki Matsui and Tino Martinez drove s after the first inning homers to stake York to an early 4-0 lead, and that was than enough offense for Chacon, who with a 1.17 ERA against Toronto this n.

e couldn't be more pleased," New York ger Joe Torre said.

"It was something we needed, to have him pitch such a controlled game all night."

Chacon (6-3) struck out three and walked one in a tidy 111-pitch effort.

Scott Proctor came on to get the last three outs in the ninth to complete a four-hitter.

Ted Lilly (9-11) was rocked in the first and after allowing a single and a walk in the second, was lifted.

He lasted just one-plus inning, charged with four runs on five hits with three walks.

Five Toronto relievers held the Yankees to just one run the rest of the way, but the Blue Jays could do little against Chacon. *Reuters*

Indiana stars punished for Detroit brawl

ROCHESTER HILLS, MICHIGAN—INDIANA Pacers players Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal and Stephen Jackson were sentenced to a year of probation, community service and a fine on Friday for their roles in one of the worst brawls in US sports history.

They pleaded no contest earlier to misdemeanor assault charges stemming from the Nov. 19 melee in an NBA game at The Palace of Auburn Hills, home of the Detroit Pistons.

District Court Judge Julie Nicholson ordered each to serve a year of probation, complete 60 hours of community service and pay a $250 fine. The players also must undergo anger management counseling. A prosecutor said he believed Artest would be able to show he already had completed counseling.

A no-contest plea in Michigan is not an admission of guilt but is treated as such for sentencing.

Several fans also were charged in the brawl that started after Detroit Pistons center Ben Wallace shoved Artest following a hard foul.

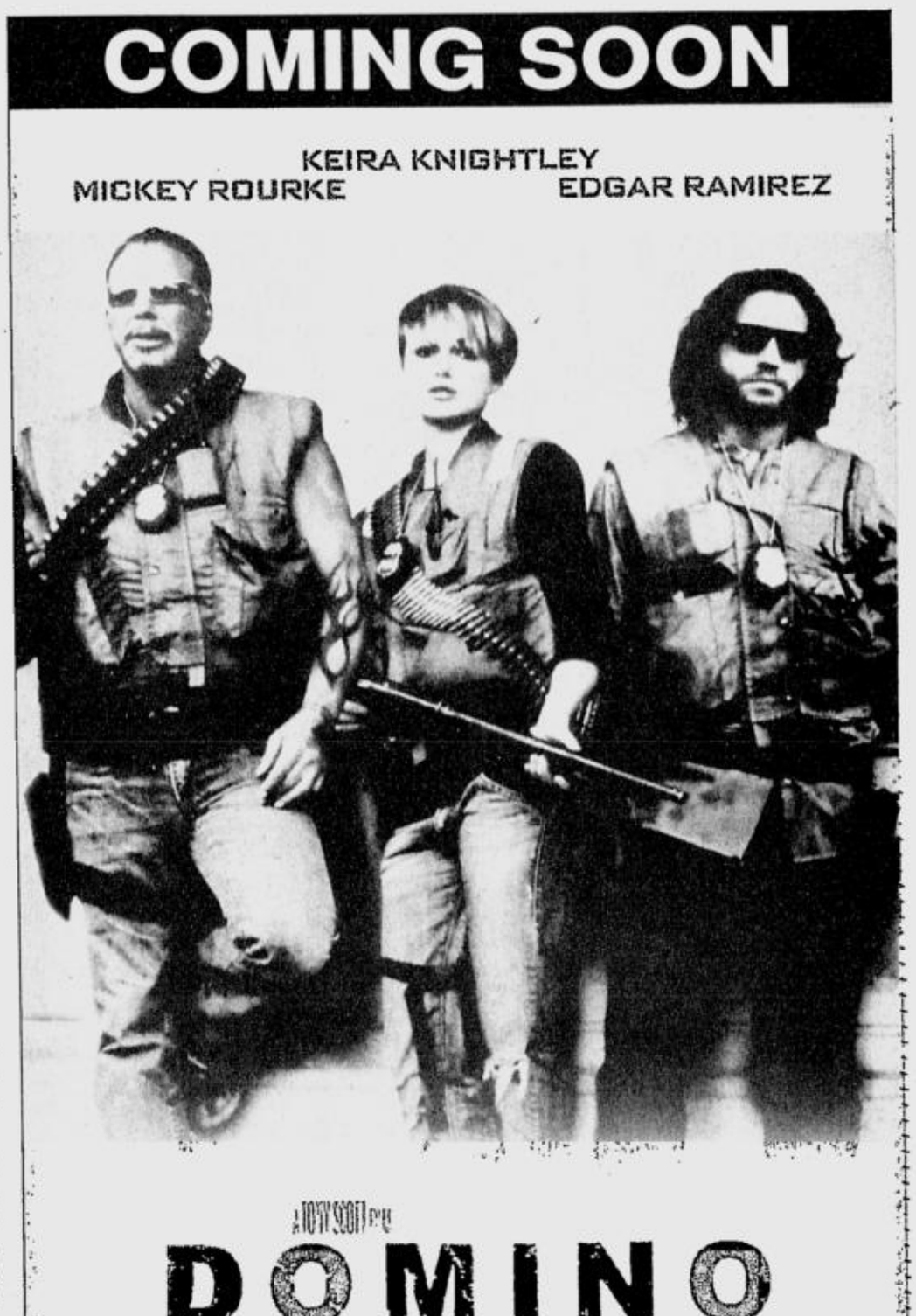
After the players were separated, Artest was doused with a beverage and rushed into the stands after the man he thought had thrown the drink. Some of his teammates joined him in the stands and clashed with fans on the court.

Argentine joins San Antonio

In New York, Fabricio Oberto sat outside a conference center where the NBA was conducting its rookie orientation program and looked ahead to joining the defending champion Spurs.

With NBA training camps set to open on Oct. 4, the Spurs might have improved more than any other team by acquiring Michael Finley and Nick Van Exel. And the move that might end up helping most was adding the big man from Argentina whose soft hands, accurate touch and superior basketball IQ will add another low-post weapon to a roster that already includes the most fundamentally sound big man in the world.

"I don't know if I am a mystery. I don't have any secret weapons or anything," Oberto said. "I just work hard every day. That is the philosophy of my life." *AP*



my wedding day," the groom said. "I two the chosen ones."

jections from the bride?

e at all," the groom said. "You know, rag but I have always been the boss years that we've been sweethearts. r, she always has the final say."

l let's have it written for the papers. e-one stuff. Notwithstanding your in the sports world, this occasion is v not only newsworthy but one that's ng with human interest. It's not evhat we see someone like you getting this late in your life.

fused.

e it peaceful and serene," he said. "I ist you and a few friends to be with ole like a ribbon in a little girl's hair."

e were, maybe, only a little over a people present, including Jake P. my fellow godfather in the wedding valking monument in sports writing. the atmosphere was electric.

ve yet to see a wedding so beautiful ark simplicity than this one," Jake

wait, did you say there were hairs all over?

he crap. The lovebirds were as erect lco posts on this their wedding day. were not even canes and diapers, ras.

Mooching, honeymoon talk, was in the air.

During the wedding, the groom and bride stood in rapt attention, their thoughts glued towards the promised bliss in the night interrupted only by the groom's kiss stolen near the end of the rites.

"Hold it, hold it," said the officiating pastor in admonishing the groom as he was about to steal a kiss again. "I haven't declared you man and wife yet."

With that, guffaws finally broke the ghost-town-like silence.

No one dared to ask where the honeymoon is. But someone hollered, "When is the honeymoon?"

The groom shot back: "Secret."

Guffaws again.

I then remembered the Beatle song, "I Feel Fine," which became a big hit in the Sixties. It had this line: "I'll buy you a diamond ring my dear if you say you love me, too."

The groom didn't buy his bride a diamond ring. Nor did he buy her a present on this their wedding day. In fact, the couple barred their well-wishers from bringing in gifts. Not even Jake and I, their only Ninongs, were excluded from their rule, which was:

"We just want you to come. Your presence is our gift."

***

E-mail menju@pldtdsl.net

vives school's lost glory

RTED FROM THE DAYS WHEN college basketball, the Universi-Tomas can thank a bunch of athers for fetching memories of the .

devil moves that blazed the trail eering squads in the UAAP and s, the Salinggawi Dance Troupe d its fourth straight cheerdance title, cushioning the school's ver its spiraling basketball pro-

rk and discipline are the core val-by," said Jeleen Villagante, cursident.

nation of the SDT could not have tter time.

s, traditional powerhouses in the terpiece event—men's basketot been able to recapture the old llowed it to dominate collegiate '90s.

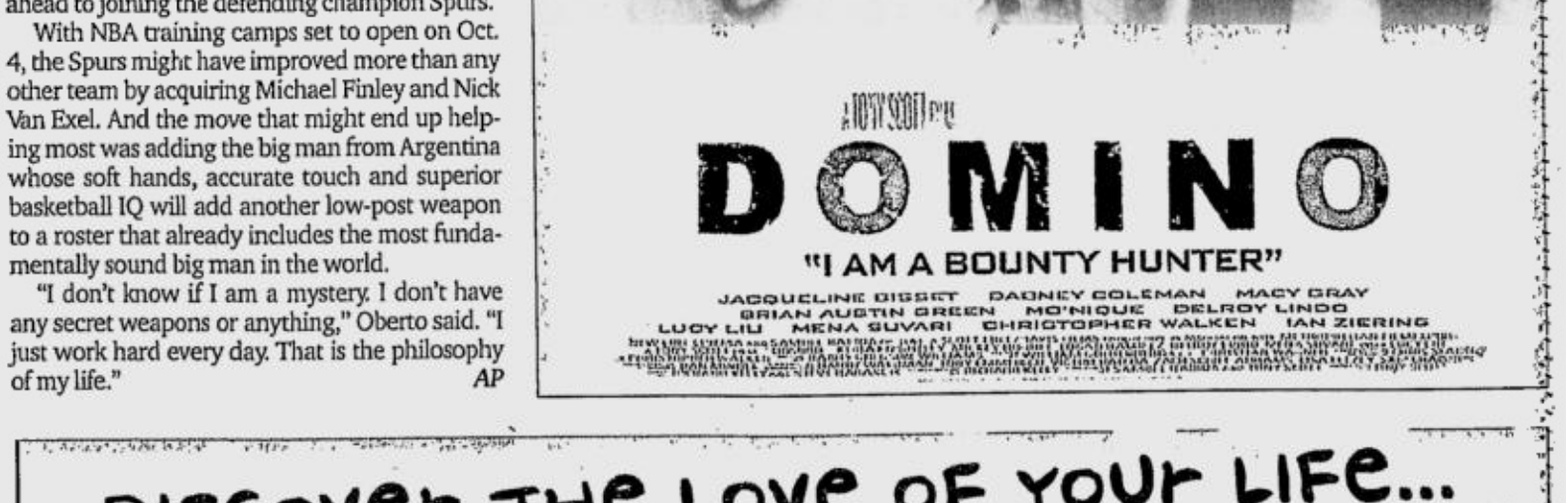
It was early in that decade when Santo Tomas won four straight titles and had the school dreaming of a dynasty in the offing.

But the dynasty never came. And as the losses piled up, the spotlight slowly fell during the Tigers' halftime breaks, when the SDT took over.

Outfitted by LA Gear in the traditional black, white and gold colors of the school, the Salinggawi members literally gave the Santo Tomas half of every coliseum crowd a reason to cheer.

Every hand spring, cartwheel, toss and turn was executed to surgical synchronization. Under the guidance of its adviser, Institute of PE and Athletics (IPEA) faculty member Edna Sanchez, the SDT showed its winning form everyday, capped by its golden performance in the annual cheering contest.

Ten years ago, a school's Drive-for-Five bid went up in smoke. Now, a dance troupe hopes to fulfill that old dream when it guns for that feat next year.



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1 CONSTANT GARDENER
12:00FS/12:30MF/03:15/06:05
08:20LFS/09:00LMF/11:15END

2 PERFECT CATCH
11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40
08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

MEGAMALL

RED EYE
11:00FS/11:10MF/12:55/02:40/04:25/06:10/07:55
09:20LFS/09:40LMF/11:05END

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1 BROTHERS GRIMM
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20
09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:30END

2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:05/03:12:05:18/07:24
09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

3 CINDERELLA MAN
10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

MANILA

SOUND OF THUNDER
10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20
09:05LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 DARK WATER
2 PERFECT CATCH
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 SOUND OF THUNDER
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
7 CINDERELLA MANA
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 BLADE OF THE ROSE
10 RED EYE
11 LOVESTRCUK
12 THE CAVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
7 DARK WATER
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 THE CAVE
12 RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DARK WATER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 PERFECT CATCH
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DARK WATER

SM CITY SIA MESA
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 CONSTANT GARDENER
7 A SOUND OF THUNDER
8 BROTHERS GRIMM
9 THE CAVE
10 CINDERELLA MAN

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DARK WATER
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
4 DARK WATER

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 RED EYE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DARK WATER
5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 THE CAVE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLAMAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 RED EYE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LONGEST YARD
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 VALIANT
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 SKY HIGH
7 A SOUND OF THUNDER
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 ICE PRINCESS
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CAVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

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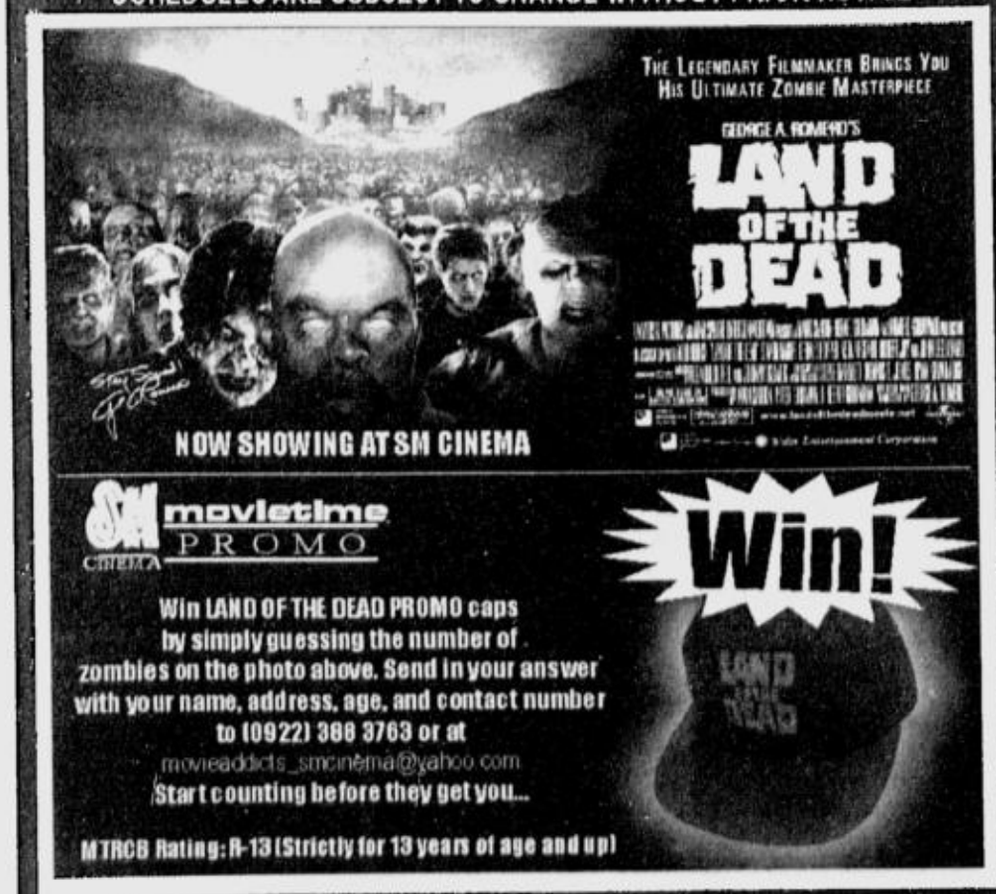

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Dixie the Younger eyes second juvenile victory

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

DIXIE THE YOUNGER IMPRESSED EVERYONE WHEN he won the opening leg with aplomb.

Could he be as devastating when he shoots for another win, this time in the 2nd leg of the 2005 Juvenile Colt Championship series today at the Santa Ana Park?

Owned and homebred by father-and-son Francis and Michael Trillana, Dixie the Younger appears to have the odds stacked in his favor in the 1,500-meter event.

Lightly raced and looking perfectly fit for the contest, the son of Khozaam out of Dixie Cup is facing six rivals led by opening-leg runner-up Manila's Smile.

Three of the listed entries, Don Exequiel, Golden Number and Million Dollar, were also among those beaten previously by Dixie the Younger, while Manhattan and Manila's Gem are the new contenders.

"*Itakbo niya lang yung itinakbo niya sa* first leg, *malaki uli ang tsansa naming makauna sa meta* (If he runs the way he did in the first leg we have a bright chance of hitting the wire first again)," said star jockey Fernando "Dhunoy" Raquel, who muscled Dixie the Younger to a two-length win over Manila's Smile in their last meeting.

In preparation for today's assignment, Dixie the Younger showed no mercy in whipping sweepstakes winner Kaiphia in an allowance race, galloping ferociously even under driving rain three weeks ago at the Makati race track.

Manila's Smile, the beaten favorite in the first leg, also jotted down a win recently, giving him a boost of sort as he aims to get back at the Trillanas' bay galloper.

A stunning loss to Don Exequiel right after he won his sweepstakes debut relegated Dixie the Younger as the second choice during the first leg but the latter recoiled magnificently from the setback.

RANDY Ortiz (inset) of PCSO-Yamaha-AGV Helmet is a top rider of the 2005 Shell Advance Superbikes Championships. He is backed by PCSO, AGV Helmet, RC Car Exchange, Nile Pacific, Yamaha-Norkis and Polo oil.

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Race 1-1. Mini Skirt 2. Sweet Inspiration 3. Action Mark
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Race 3-1. I Love This Game 2. Puede Ba 3. Pride of Masbate
Race 4-1. Smiling Jaeda 2. Silver Cho Cho 3. Simply Gold 4. Hezagone Babes
Race 5-1. Juggernaut 2. Gold Fever 3. From This Moment 4. Living Jewel
Race 6-1. Interceptor 2. Queen's Abbey 3. Don King 4. Cool Charger
Race 7-1. Dixie the Younger 2. Manila's Smile 3. Manila's Gem 4. Million Dollar
Race 8-1. Worth Ur While 2. Lightning Strike 3. Smooth Strike 4. Hit the Wire 5. Strong Colony
Race 9-1. Special Edition 2. Pechanga 3. Straight Free 4. Jet Sutter
Race 10-1. Presidentiable 2. Deity 3. Red Storm 4. Shaolin
Race 11-1. Lumiere 2. Classic Model 3. Fastteller 4. Solo Singer
Race 12-1. Nitty Gritty 2. Amaretta 3. Friendly Venture 4. Ilang Ilang Queen
Race 13-1. Seeing Red/Boy from Brazil 2. Ole Ole Ole 3. Fancy Dancer 4. Now Showing 5. Look Who's Playing 6. Cool Turner

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CINEMA 5: PERFECT CATCH GP — 11:35, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:25

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Coseteng nears touring crown

JUST ONE MORE SWEEP AND DEFENDING champion Jody Coseteng of San Miguel Beer will have the title in the bag this weekend, Oct. 1-2, in the sixth and penultimate leg of the 2005 Petron National Touring Car Championship at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Coseteng, looking forward to a fifth straight touring car crown, is now way ahead in the standings with 147 points in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Petron Ultron, Kilton Motors, Denso, MOF Company and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.

And despite the 24-man field, Coseteng has bright chances as proven by his big win over Miguel Ramirez and Enzo Pastor in the combined race.

Also up this weekend is the Run-What-You-Brung Race, a popular side event where car racing enthusiasts can test their skills on a real circuit aboard whatever car they brought.

AAP backs Race Fans Inc.

THE PHILIPPINE National Touring Car Championships presented by Race Fans Inc. is the only recognized national circuit car racing competition in the country. This was stressed by Mandy Eduque, general manager of the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP), the country's governing body for local motorsports, as he belied claims by independent race organizers that what they're organizing are legitimate national events sanctioned by the AAP. "Race Fans Inc., headed by Rich Santos, is the only group authorized by the AAP to hold races in the country and use the term national in their series," said Eduque.

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1 CINE EUROPA 8
1 00, 4 00, 7 00, 10 00 LMF

3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
MTRCB PG-13
1 25, 4.00, 6 35, 9 10 LMF

2 THE PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB GP
12 00, 2 30, 5.00, 7.30, 10 00 LMF

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
MTRCB R-13
12 40, 3 00, 5 20, 7 40, 10 00

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1 LAND OF THE DEAD — 1:40, 4:00, 6:20, 8:40, 11:00 — PG-13
2 PERFECT CATCH — 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 — GP
3 DARK WATER — 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 — PG-13
4 CONSTANT GARDENER — 11:40, 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40 — PG-13

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LAND OF THE DEAD R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	DARK WATER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:45	BLADE OF THE ROSE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:25	PERFECT CATCH GP 11:35,1:45,3:55, 6:05,8:15,10:25

MTRCB PG-13
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JESSICA ALBA
SCOTT CAAN
ASHLEY SCOTT
INTO THE BLUE
OPENS OCTOBER 5

Samsung tilt set at Valley

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY JUNIOR PLAYERS from top colleges and universities in Metro Manila are competing in the fifth Samsung Interscholastics golf championship starting Tuesday at the executive course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo.

Among the entries in the 54-hole tourney are international winners led by Marcel Puyat of Ateneo, Ma-an Legaspi of The Master's Academy and Angelicum's JR Gonzales. Also entered is Ateneo's Katrina Gonzales, the reigning HSBC National Tournament of Club Champions titlist.

Former President Fidel Ramos, Philippine Sports Commission chairman Butch Ramirez, Valley president Joe Feliciano and jungolf head Gerry Handog will hit the ceremonial balls.

For inquiries, call the Professional Sports Management Group Inc. at 6350010.

S'woods bets get 4th title

NATIONAL TEAM candidates Anya Tanpinco and Carmelette Villaroman carded 37 points each in powering Manila Southwoods to its fourth Class A title out of six legs in the recent Women's Golf Association of the Philippines (WGAP) Circuit at the Royal Northwoods Golf Club course in Bulacan.

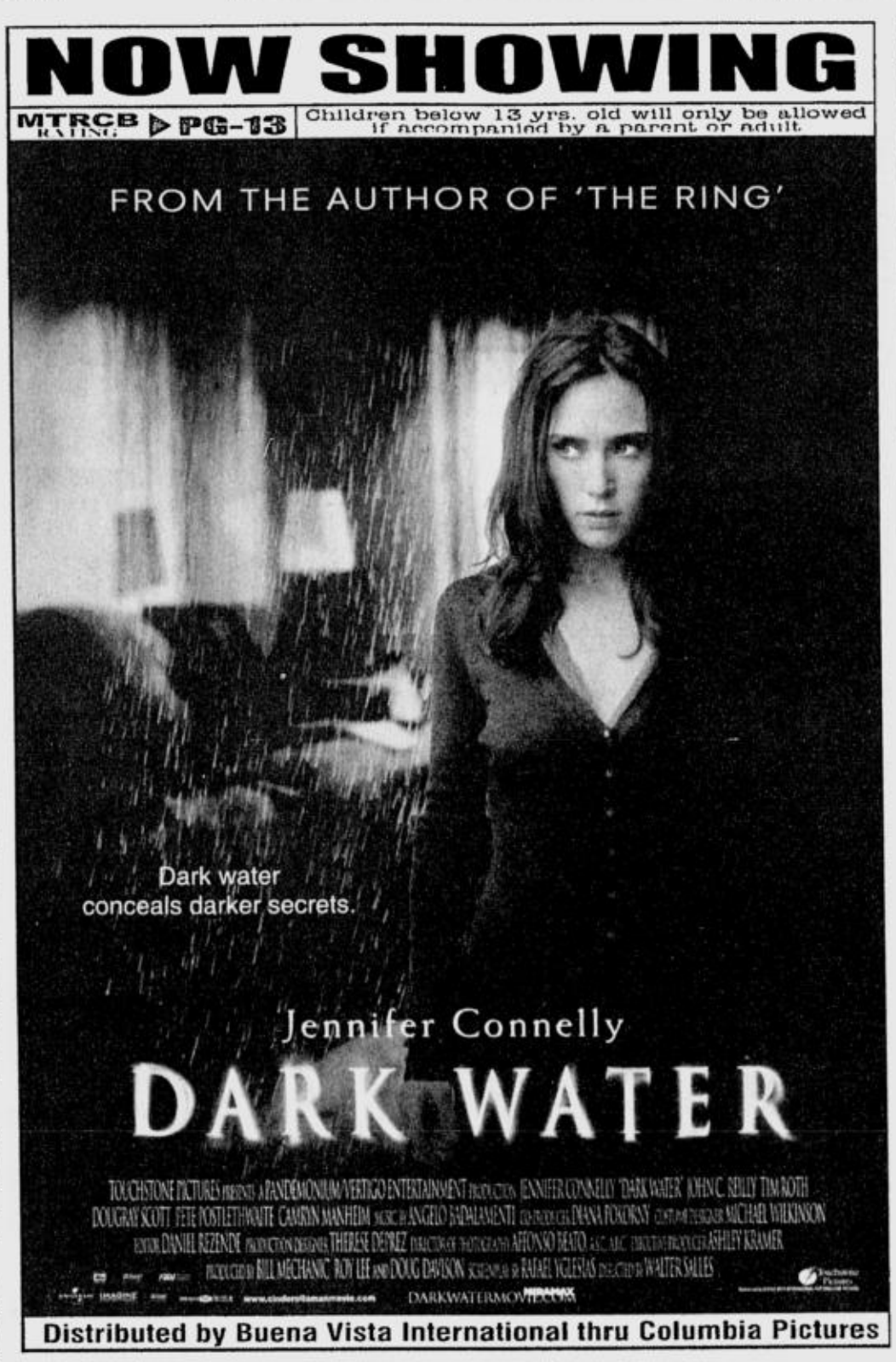
Any two of the 33s submitted by Loida Arnold, Claudine Garcia and Connie Campos counted as the next two scores of Southwoods which totaled 140, two better than the 138 of Forest Hills.

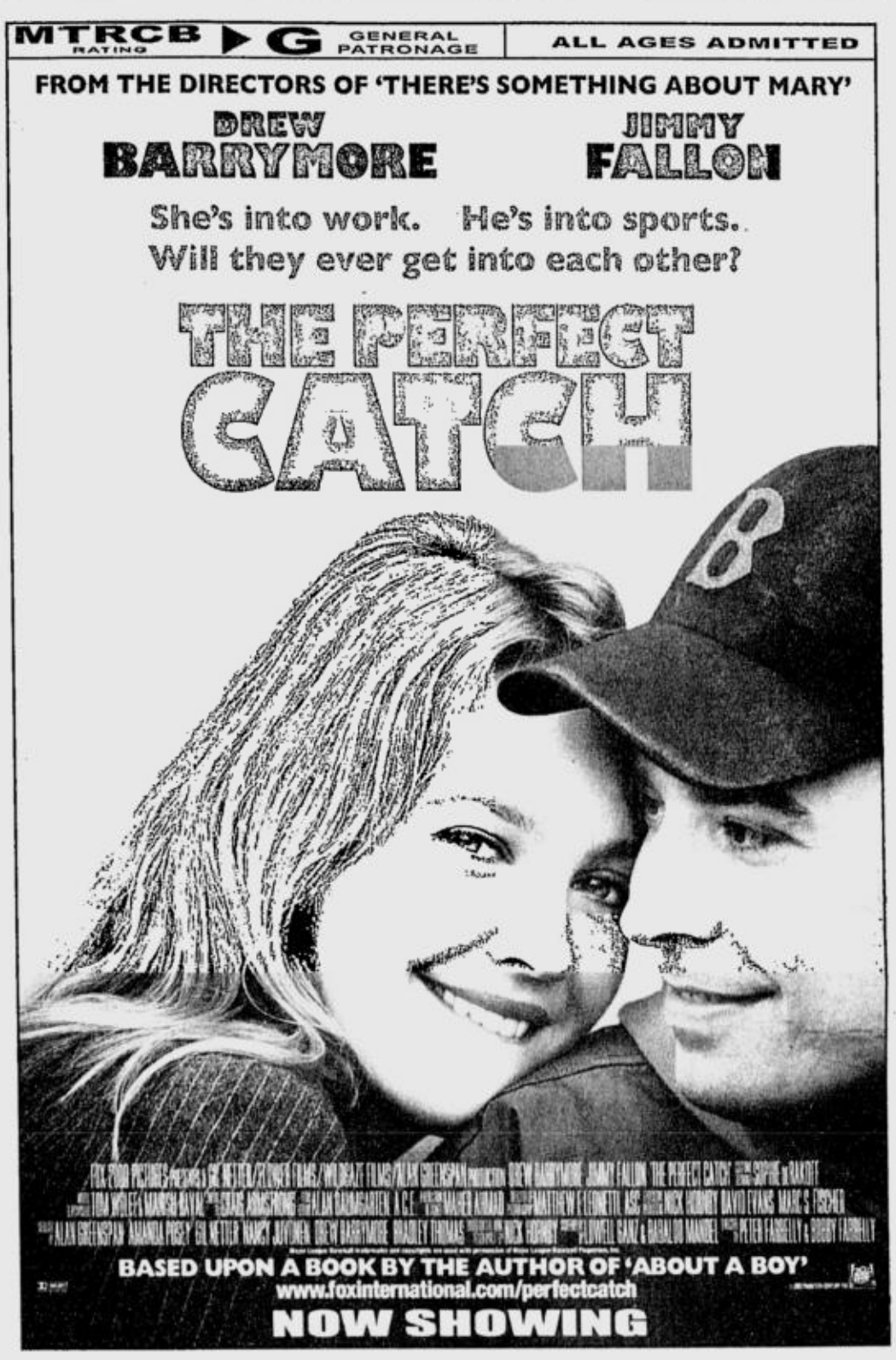
Forest Hills took Class C in lopsided fashion while Alabang topped Class B.

Irene Chua, Lilian Lu, Annie Que and Lourdes Chua compiled 141 for Forest Hills which wound up 14 strokes ahead of Alabang for its first victory in the division.

Alabang picked up its third Class B title on the efforts of Ofelia Carlos, Vivian Chua, Olive Pizarro and Videlyn Torralba.

Individual champions were Nancy Ortiga in Class A, Cora Fyfe in Class B and Ana Haurie in Class C.





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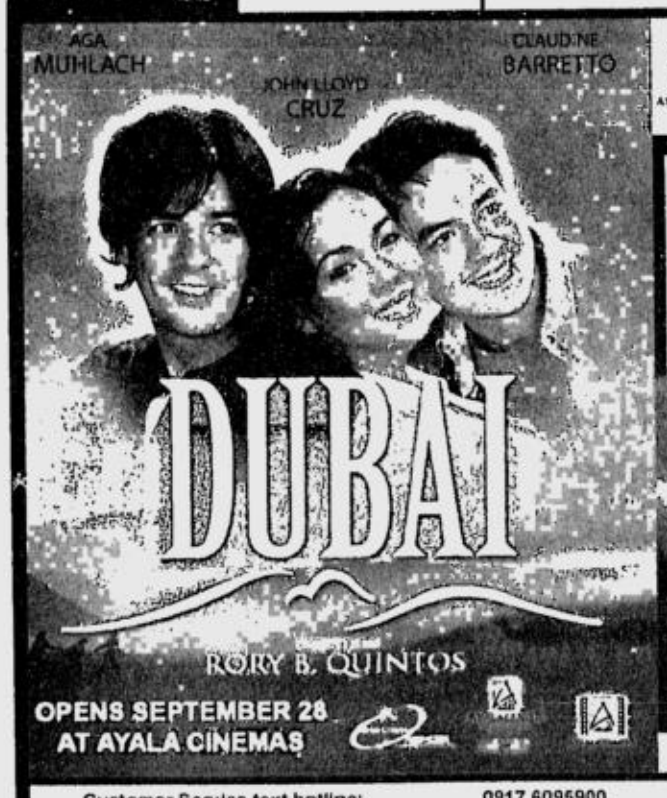
G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 DARK WATER	3 BLADE OF THE ROSE	4 LAND OF THE DEAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	3 THX DARK WATER 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 SKY HIGH / RED EYE	6 LAND OF THE DEAD	7 CONSTANT GARDENER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PERFECT CATCH 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45		2 A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:10, 3:05, 5:00	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PERFECT CATCH 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX LAND OF THE DEAD 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 CINDERELLA MAN 3:00, 5:50, 8:40, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DARK WATER 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CONSTANT GARDENER 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DARK WATER		2 PERFECT CATCH	
	3 LAND OF THE DEAD	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 RED EYE	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 CINDERELLA MAN	2 DUKES OF HAZZARD	3 VALIANT	4 A SOUND OF THUNDER



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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CINDERELLA MAN • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 DARK WATER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

9 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 lo 12

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

4 LOVESTRUCK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
10:45 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:50

6 DARK WATER
10:30 12:25 4:15 6:10 8:00 9:50

7 A SOUND OF THUNDER 10:20 12:35 2:50
THE BROTHERS GRIMM 5:00 7:30 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 CINDERELLA MAN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

2 THE CROW 4
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

3 DARK WATER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 THE PERFECT CATCH
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

7 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 LOVESTRUCK
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

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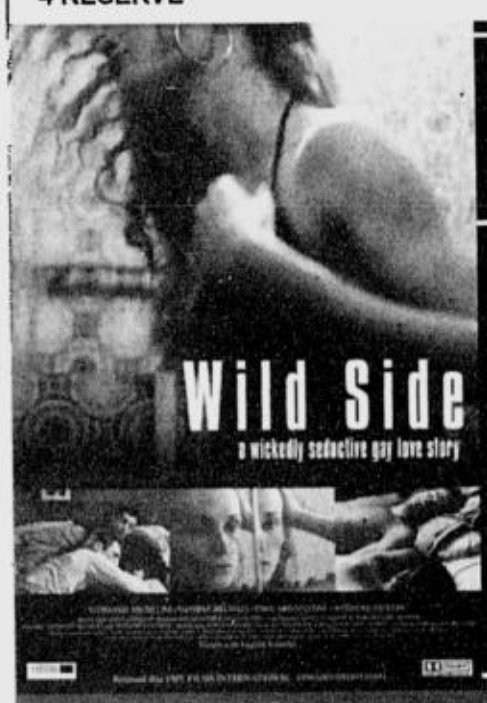
1 RESERVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER



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1 LOVESTRUCK
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 A SOUND OF THUNDER
4 THE LONG WEEKEND

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1 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 RED EYE
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

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1 THE CAVE
2 THE LONG WEEKEND
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK

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2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
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5 THE CAVE
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2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

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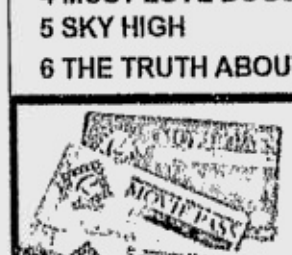
1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 SKY HIGH



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mmie G. Velarde

'Housemate' Jenny gives up

... to see dying dad, while 'Pinoy Big Brother' shapes up to please censors

By Nini Valera

THE ADOPTIVE FATHER OF "PINOY BIG Brother" contestant Jenny Suico died on Thursday night a few hours after seeing her.

Although she had not been ousted from the competition, Jenny, 29, voluntarily left the "Pinoy Big Brother" house last Saturday to see her dying stepfather, Aquilino de los Santos in a hospital in Olongapo City.

She'd have wanted to be even among the last four contestants, she said, because the consolation prizes were big enough (grand prize is P1 million, a house and lot, plus a sports utility vehicle). "I wanted to win for my son and my father," she told INQUIRER Entertainment last Thursday.

No regrets

A few hours after she faced the entertainment press, word reached her that De los Santos finally succumbed to liver ailment. Jenny had just arrived back in Manila. She had appeared on "The Buzz" the day after leaving the PBB house, and then left immediately for Olongapo.

Jenny recalled the visit: "He smiled when he saw me. I was told that he seldom talked and had not smiled for a long time." She did not regret giving up the show for that, she said. "It was something I had to do."

But she had yet to see her live-in partner, Ferdinand, and their 9-year-old son, Jorge, in their Cavite home.

Before "Pinoy Big Brother" claimed her, Jenny was a "bored housewife" who had spent time in Japan as an entertainer.

"I don't have a career to go back to," she said on Thursday. "But... I think I can act..."

HOUSEMATE/ A2-3

INSIDE

PARTY MAN
Our man in Hollywood, Ruben Nepales, meets up in Toronto with Johnny Depp (right), Heath Ledger, Gwyneth Paltrow and Pinay "E! News" segment producer Katrina Wan in a dizzying round of parties.
See p. A3-1.

JANET R. NEPALES

OPENS OCTOBER 5

Tom Stall had the perfect life...
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A DEADLY PLAGUE THREATENS THE WORLD.
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RALPH FIENNES
RACHEL WEISZ
THE CONSTANT GARDENER
BASED ON THE STORY BY ACCLAIMED BRITISH SPY NOVELIST JOHN LE CARRÉ

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2ND WEEK
FROM ORDER TO CHAOS...

A DEVASTATED WORLD UNLIKE ANYTHING YOU HAVE SEEN BEFORE

NEW SPECIES OF TERROR THAT DEVOUR EVERYTHING IN THEIR PATHS

CAN MANKIND SURVIVE THE APOCALYPTIC FUTURE?

A SOUND OF THUNDER
MASTER VISIONARY RAY BRADBURY CREATES A CHILLING FUTURE

Back to singing basics, please

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE "STAR IN A MILLION" SINGING SEARCH ON Channel 2 is turning out to be a disappointment. Now that the competition's finals phase is really heating up, quite a number of the contenders are betraying their serious flaws as performers.

You would think that finalists in a nationwide singing tilt wouldn't sing off-key, would know how to intelligently and sensitively interpret a song, would choose challenging songs to perform, and would suit their look to the number at hand.

Unfortunately, many of the finalists we heard two Sundays ago couldn't measure up to these basic standards. As juror **Wyngard Tracy** correctly pointed out, they were more concerned with looking good and simply passing muster as singers, instead of striving for originality and excellence.

From what we heard, only four or five of the remaining finalists have what it takes to even dream of surviving the competition.

We were also amazed to see some finalists who looked good but were inferior singers who chose safely undemanding songs to perform.

If they weren't standout singers, what were they doing in the finals of a major singing tilt?

Clearly, the competition should get its head screwed on straight regarding what makes a good musical performer. Good looks help, but the major emphasis must be on superior singing talent, period.

Yes, some singing stars here make it mostly because they look good, but they weren't winners of singing tilts. For singing champs, singing ability is paramount.

So, the show should stop compromising its musical standards to accommodate stellar show biz *porma*, and concentrate on discovering the best voices and most sensitive interpreters of songs.

As for the inferior singers who look good, they could still make it as models or actors, so this doesn't have to be the end for them.

Meanwhile, the competition has its work cut out for itself to make sure that, this Sunday, its remaining finalists won't be as embarrassing as they were two weeks ago.

The show should give them extra sessions on musicality, sensitive and intelligent interpretation, relating "image" to the number up for interpretation, etc. In other words, the basic requirements for standout musical performance.

It's great to aspire to soaring up to musical heights, but first, it's back to the basics, folks.

Movies on TV

ON HBO, Sept. 25 at 6:30 a.m., "The Hollow." 11 a.m., "And Starring Pancho Villa as Himself." 12:45 p.m., "The School of Rock." 6:15 p.m., "Top Gun." Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m., "The Neverending Story 2." 10:55 p.m., "Helter Skelter." Sept. 27 at 1:50 p.m., "The Cat's Meow." 5:45 p.m., "Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind." 2:30 a.m., "Normal." Sept. 28 at 7 p.m., "The American President." 12:40 a.m., "Beyond Borders."

On Cinemax, Sept. 25 at 7:30 a.m., "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea." 10:30 p.m., "Anger Management." Sept. 26 at 12 noon, "Reality Bites." 5:30 p.m., "Men Don't Leave." Sept. 27 at 12:45 p.m., "Saving Emily." Sept. 28 at 8 a.m., "Pal Joey."

MTV Supahstars

THIS month, MTV brings back its supahstar search—this time, for a charismatic, gorgeous female star for a hot, new reality TV series. Prize is P100,000. Interested? Register at www.fameandfortune.qici.com and unload a photo by Oct. 9.

'Amazing Race,' family edition

THE TWO-HOUR Asia premiere of the family edition of "The Amazing Race" will be telecast on AXN at 8 p.m. on Sept. 28. Ten teams of families of four will compete for the million-dollar prize. For 30 days, they'll travel all over the world to comply with the tests and challenges of the award-winning adventure reality series.

'Open letter'

STARTING Oct. 5, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila presents the exhibit, "Open Letter," featuring works of all young artists reflecting the immigrant experience in Australia, using a variety of new media. The exhibit is curated by Binghui Huangfu, directors of the Asia-Australia Arts Center.

The exhibit runs until Nov. 5.

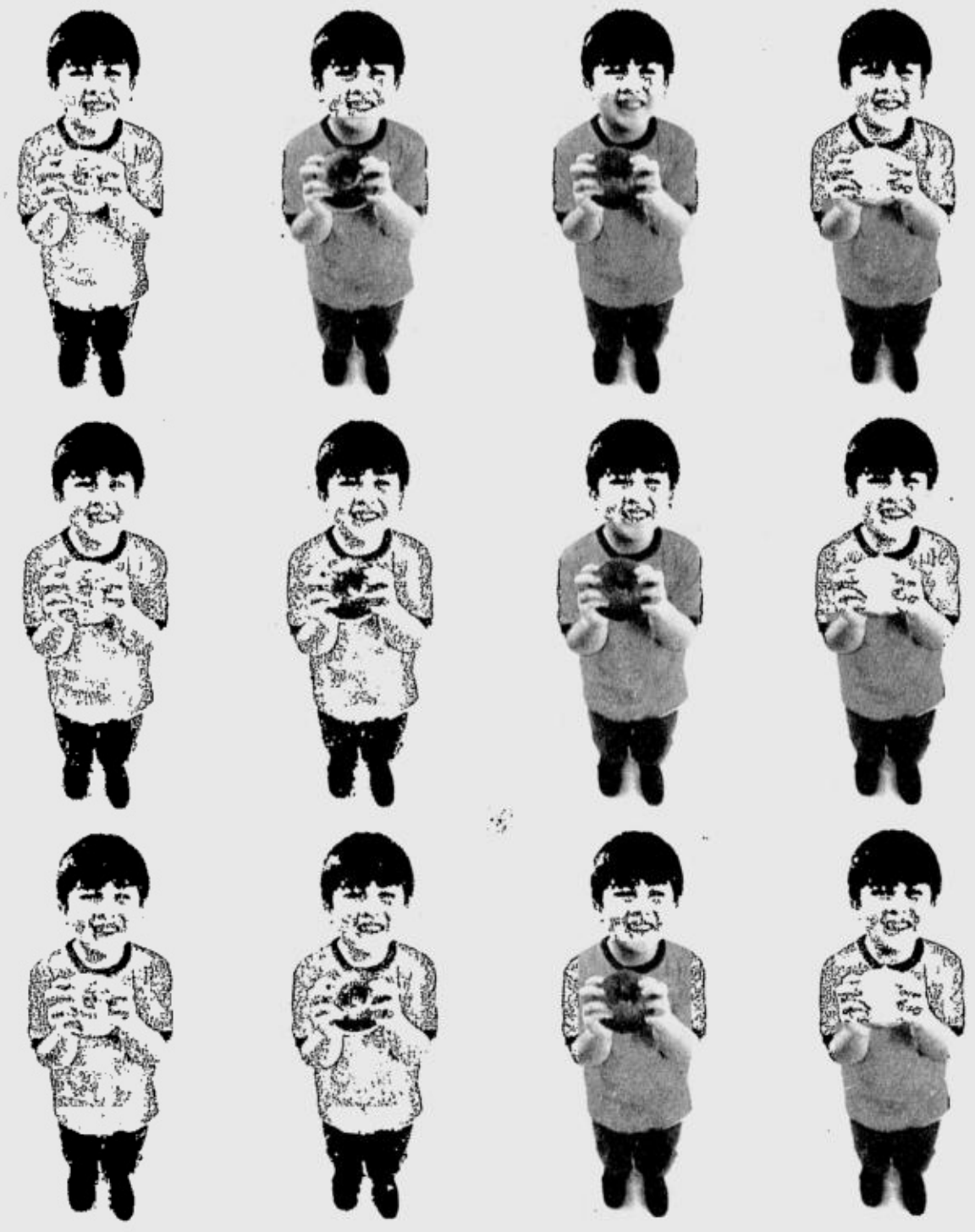
'Eating Out'

Q. ALLAN Brocka's "Eating Out," winner of the Best First Feature award of the San Francisco International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, has been released on original VCD format by Star Records Video. It is described by a reviewer as "a screwball comedy that rolls out the happy, and generally acceptable, side of being gay."

DID YOU KNOW...

WILLIAM Lorenzo and **Yayo Aguila** emerged as billiard champs in the male and female divisions, respectively, of the recently concluded Pump Magazine Celebrity 9-Ball Challenge at the Elbow Room in Metrowalk, Pasig City. They bested a field of strong players that included **Joey Marquez**, brothers **Albert** and **William Martinez, Robby Tarroza, Lance Raymundo, Rachel Lobangco, Ella V, Angelu de Leon** and **Maricar de la Fuente**.

Mas masaya pag iba-iba!



iSang dosena P96 lang!
Mr. Donut Junior Dozen
Mister Donut

JENNY Suico: No regrets.

'Housemate' Jenny . . .

From page A2-1

Jenny is a spitting image of actress Rosanna Roces. Osang is also an adopted child whose father was German. Jenny's father was either Polish or British.

"I don't know exactly," she confided. "I was about 10 when I began suspecting I was not my parents' real child. I didn't look like my siblings... I'd like to look for my real family, though I wouldn't know where to start."

Jenny said she had prayed for a sign before leaving the PBB house. Housemate Nene carried her during the show. "She was just supposed to hug me," Jenny recalled, "but she carried me. That was the sign." Had it been a male housemate, she would have stayed, she said.

MTRCB suspension

The American boy Sam replaced Jenny.

Sam's passionate kiss with housemate Chx and their steamy dance in skimpy swim suits last Monday led to the Movies and Television Review Classification Board's one-day suspension of the show.

In a letter to Ma. Socorro Vidanes, ABS-CBN senior vice president, MTRCB chair Ma. Consoliza Laguardia ordered the suspension, following a verbal warning for the show to "tone down sexually suggestive language, actuations, skimpy clothing and to edit the subject program to fall within the parameters of a Parental Guidance or PG rating (sic)."

Lauren Dyogi, director of the show and one of the show's business unit managers, said "Pinoy Big Brother" would not air tonight, in compliance with the directive. "We have one week to... abide by the order," Dyogi told INQUIRER Entertainment.

"Pinoy Big Brother" is a reality program that chronicles the interaction of 12 contestants earlier chosen to live in one house for 100 days, with 27 cameras rolling non-stop.

ROUNDUP

'ASAP' in Japan

ABS-CBN's Sunday noontime show, "ASAP '05," broadcasts from Japan today.

Gary Valenciano and Martin Nievera head the all-star cast that includes Maricel Soriano, Vina Morales and Ai-Ai de las Alas; The Champions Sarah Geronimo, Christian Bautista, Erik Santos, Jerome Sala, Mark Bautista and Sheryn Regis; Rica Peralejo, Heart Evangelista, Anne Curtis, Kristine Hermosa; Diether Ocampo, Jericho Rosales, Carloss Agassi and Bernard Palanca; Nikki Gil, John Prats, John Lloyd Cruz, Vhong Navarro; Camille Prats and the Streetboys.

'MTV Supahstar'

"MTV Supahstar 2: Search for Lady Premiere 2005, the Next Reality Star" is on. One of the prizes at stake is an endorsement contract with Premiere Condoms. The others are a major role in MTV's forthcoming reality show and P100,000 in cash. The search is open to all single girls 21 to 28 years of age, at least 5'4" in height, fluent in English, and articulate. Applicants may register at www.fameandfortune.qlci.com.

'Miss Bicolandia 2005'

JEANNE Lindy Silo of Daraga, Albay, was crowned "Miss Bicolandia 2005" in a beauty pageant held recently in Peñafrancia, Naga. Her court consisted of Amanda Powell of Legazpi City, Ruby Velitario of Nabua, Karen Matza of Tabaco City and Kristina Alpapara of Iriga City. Show biz celebrity guests were AJ Dee, Troy Montero, Agot Isidro and Joaquin Valdez.

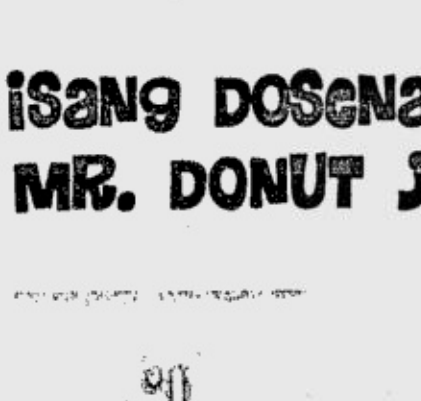
Talk about love

RYAN Agoncillo and Judy Ann Santos, and Lino Cayetano and Bianca Gonzalez break their silence about their respective relationships in today's episode of "Y Speak" titled, "All About Love," this Sunday at 7 p.m. on Studio 23.

THE TWO happy couples, with "Y Speak" executive producer Noel Ferrer.

erik santos
Loving You Now

includes the songs:
I Will Never Leave You
Goodbye's Not Forever
Doors
Bakit Ba Inibig Ka feat. Regine Velasquez
(an Ogie Alcasid composition)
Mystery
(a Martin Nievera composition)



includes the MINUS ONEs of
I'll Never Go
I Will Never leave You
Goodbye's Not Forever
Doors

Catch Erik Santos' album launch showcase on Wednesday, September 28 at the MUSIC MUSEUM 5:00 pm. FREE entrance with every purchase of his new album LOVING YOU NOW at the gate. First come, first served.

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GWYNETH Paltrow with the baby gift set from her interviewers

Kissing hunks and Pinay achievers in Toronto

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—We're back in LA but we're continuing our story on some of the sidelights at the Toronto International Film Festival.

On day 4, the highlight was the premiere of **Ang Lee**'s "Brokeback Mountain." For the curious, yes, actors **Heath Ledger** and **Jake Gyllenhaal** do kiss, and fight just as passionately, as cowboys in 1960s Wyoming. But the good news is that Heath finally gives a performance that is outstanding from start to finish. As for Jake, he always turns in riveting portrayals onscreen. The exciting buzz is that Heath is even better in "Casanova" while Jake has another major movie coming up, "Jarhead." We're happy for these two actors.

Our sweet dilemma in Toronto was that two or three parties were held at the same time on any given night. So between bashes for **David Cronenberg**'s "A History of Violence"—a darn good movie with **Viggo Mortensen**—and "Brokeback Mountain," we went for the one whose venue was closer to our hotel. My editor, it turns out, ranks Viggo as her second fantasy date, so she would shake her head when she reads this: We partied with Heath and Jake instead.

Heath, his pregnant girlfriend actress **Michelle Williams** (they met on the set of "Brokeback") and Jake mingled freely with

KISSING/ A3-2

Sweet dilemma: Which party to attend first? Viggo's or Heath's . . . Charlize's or Gwyneth's . . .

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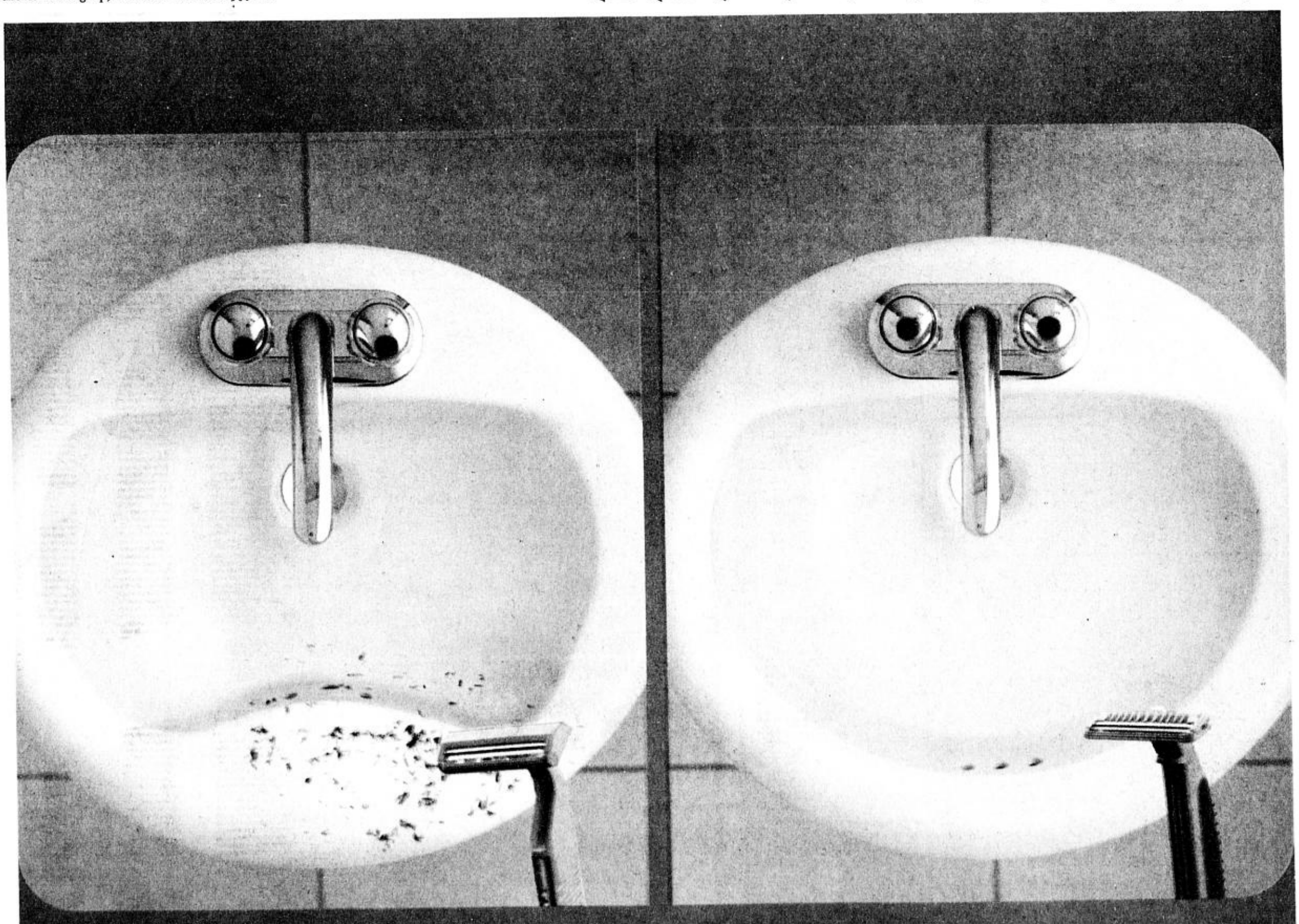

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Kissing

the guests, which included his **Gyllenhaal** and her boyfriend, ac **gaard**. These Gyllenhaal siblings —they are not only excellent acto nice, too.

When I asked Jake about his e ing Heath, he promised to answe during our press group's intervie couple of days. As the party Heath and Michelle, looking ver couple in love, escaped through th

Also at the party was **Matthe** who will surely get noticed as the in "Pride and Prejudice," one of presentations. Matthew introdu beautiful wife, **Keeley Hawes**, als

Next we walked to the "Corps held at a . . . jewelry store! It wa place for husbands and boyfrie with their wives and girlfrienc looked longingly at all the jewels es as everyone waited for the film **Depp**, to arrive.

Hello, famous neighbor

We saw **Katrina Wan**, another ing the scene in Toronto (we wr **Marie Baldonado**, producer of ar dio show, in last Sunday's co known Katrina from LA but only we finally get a chance to chat. W she had gone to the University o from kinder to prep and that sh from Disney, where she was a p News as a segment producer.

Fans outside the store went wil ny finally showed up. He was dre quite a contrast to the shirt and j wear to our press con a few days l

Over lunch the next day, we director **John Madden** his latest adaptation of **David Auburn's** winning play, "Proof." Then ca cast, starting with **Gwyneth Paltr** off the difficult Catherine role, wh tackled in a London stage product group presented the actress with set for her baby, **Apple Blythe A** who was born last May. Gwyneth ant that a colleague had to com think motherhood has a lot to d make-up, too," she laughed.

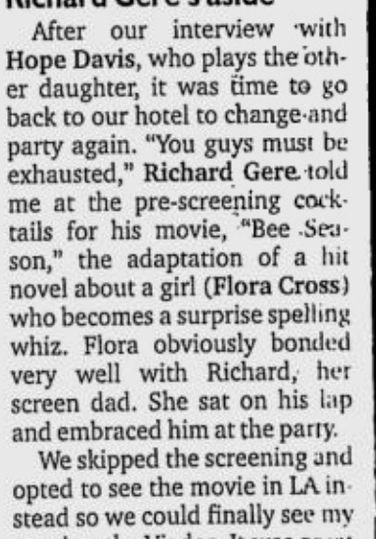
You have to be careful when interviewing **Anthony Hopkins**, who plays Catherine's mentally ill father but was a math genius in his prime. The esteemed actor tends to be moody. When this afternoon's press con began, he looked very serious, his eyes downcast and his voice low and soft. But eventually he lightened up, his disposition finally matching his bright orange shirt.

The presence of a smiling, laughing Filipina-looking lady in the back may have buoyed Anthony's spirits. "I went through a period when I nearly damaged my health and my life. I drank too much," he admitted. "I think my marriage has helped me a lot because **Stella (Arroyave)** has given me a lot of support in my life." He added, "She's here," and he pointed to Stella, who turned out to be Colombian.

Richard Gere's aside

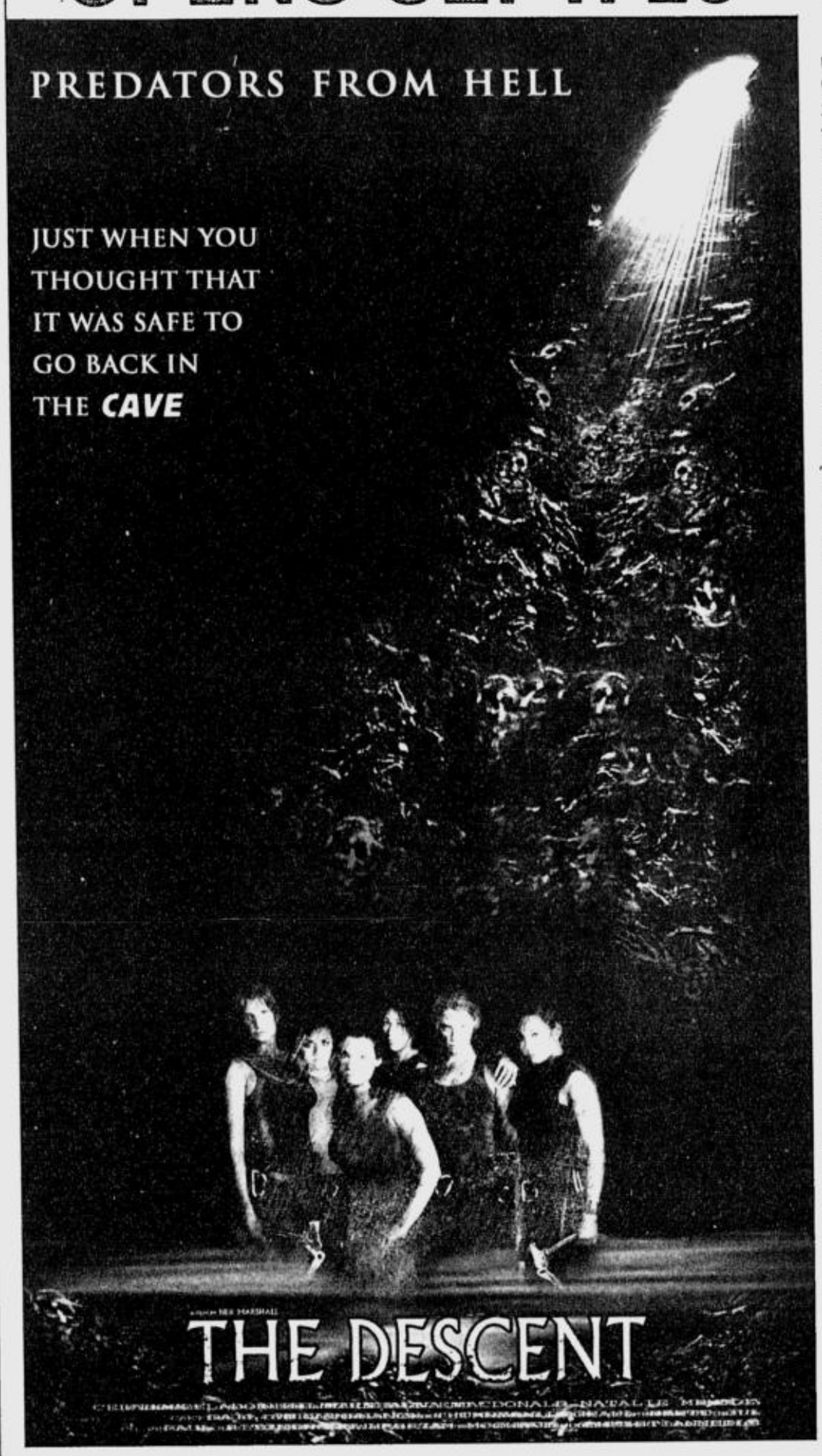
After our interview with **Hope Davis**, who plays the other daughter, it was time to go back to our hotel to change and party again. "You guys must be exhausted," **Richard Gere** told me at the pre-screening cocktails for his movie, "Bee Season," the adaptation of a hit novel about a girl (**Flora Cross**) who becomes a surprise spelling whiz. Flora obviously bonded very well with Richard, her screen dad. She sat on his lap and embraced him at the party.

We skipped the screening and opted to see the movie in LA instead so we could finally see my cousins, the Viados. It was great to eat home-cooked dinner, for a change, at the home of my cousin **Sinagtala** and her hus-



TIM Burton and Johnny Depp

OPENS SEPT. 28



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1	SKY HIGH
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3 (DOLBY)	MUST LOVE DOGS

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5	SOUND OF THUNDER

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2	LAND OF THE DEAD
3	LOVE STRUCK

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1	VALIANT
2	LONGEST YARD

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1 (SDDS)	THE EYE INFINITY
2	TIKIM
3	INIT NG DUGO
4 (DTS)	ELVIS HAS LEFT THE BUILDING

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1 (DOLBY)	LONG WEEKEND
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2	LAND OF THE DEAD
3	RESERVED
4	RESERVED
5 (DOLBY)	DARK WATER
6	SOUND OF THUNDER

Jade Cinema
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1 (SDDS/DTS)	DUKES OF HAZZARD
2	TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DTS EX)	RED EYE
4	LOVE STRUCK

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1	LOVE STRUCK
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3 (DOLBY)	RED EYE
4 (DTS)	DUKES OF HAZZARD

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4	LOVE STRUCK

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BLADE OF THE ROSE 1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30	CINDERELLA MAN 6:00 / 9:00 CITY AFTER DARK 1:00

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2 BLADE OF THE ROSE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35	5 A SOUND OF THUNDER 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
3 LAND OF THE DEAD 12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

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Sep 25 DLSZ vs FEU Jrs 9:30 am / ADMU vs UP Jrs 11:30am
Sunday ADMU vs DLSU Srs1:30 pm / FEU vs UE Srs 4:00pm

Sep 29 Thursday UAAP FINAL FOUR If nec. OR UAAP GAME 1 FINALS

CENTER EVENTS

EXHIBITS

Negros Trade Fair ongoing until October 2 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall

Rustans Beauty Exhibit featuring the new fragrance by L'Occitane today and tomorrow at the Acitvity Area of Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

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hunks and Pinay achievers in Toronto

From page A3-1

sister **Maggie** or **Peter Sars**are a class act 's; they're very

perience kiss- r the question with him in a vinded down, y much like a e kitchen.

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Filipina mak- te about **Ann** acclaimed ra- umn). We've n Toronto did e learned that Santo Tomas e had moved ublicist, to E!

d when John- ssed formally, ans he would ter.

iscussed with lm, the movie 'ulitzer Prize- me Madden's ow, who pulls ich she earlier ion. Our press a belated gift **lison Martin,** ooked so radi- liment her. "I with it—and

band, **Nonong Acedillo.**

Monday saw us hurdling through more marathon interviews, led by our "Brokeback Mountain" press cons with director Ang Lee—who, as I wrote earlier, was fresh from the movie's Venice film fest triumph—Jake, Michelle and Heath.

Just between us

Jake, as he had promised, told me about kissing Heath. Apparently, for these two straight actors, shaving helped and made filming those intimate scenes somewhat tolerable. Jake said, "The one word I will use to describe it is exfoliating."

We hope Heath doesn't read this but Jake smilingly added, "I've done scenes with women I was incredibly attracted to, and . . . women I wasn't incredibly attracted to. [Kissing Heath] was sort of more along the lines of doing a scene with someone you're not attracted to and making it work."

Jake laughingly quipped, "The real joke is that Heath and I made love and a baby was made. And I don't care what they say—I'm indirectly a godfather [to Heath and Michelle's baby, due in several weeks]."

For his part, Heath said, "It was definitely tough. Obviously, it took a lot of courage. I felt slightly violated (laughter) but the story required it. Jake and I went into this film with a lot of respect for each other just for making this choice. We understood that we had a responsibility to tell this story and so in order to act out these intimate scenes, we had to suspend reality and harness the infinite power of belief, to really convince ourselves of the story, of the love."

Heath continued, "Between action and cut, if for one second we snapped out and realized it was Heath kissing Jake, we would probably had to just turn and go home. We wouldn't have been able to complete the scene. We really had to believe our environment."

In the afternoon, we interviewed "Corpse Bride's" **Tim Burton**, Johnny Depp and **Helena Bonham-Carter**. It was touching to hear Johnny describing that the trinkets he proudly wore were hand-made by his kids. The accessories definitely made him look different from your generic Hollywood leading man.

FILIPINA Katrina Wan, E! News segment producer, at the "Corpse Bride" party

HEATH Ledger says it "took courage" to kiss Jake.

MICHELLE Williams, Heath's wife. The baby's due soon.

ACTOR siblings Maggie and Jake Gyllenhaal

RICHARD Gere with young co-star Flora Cross

PHOTOS BY RUBEN AND JANET NEPALES

'Masahista' break

Before we headed off for the night's parties, we met with the "Masahista" posse: *direk* **Brillante "Dante" Mendoza**, actors **Alan Paule** and **Coco Martin**, supervising producer **Ihman Esturco** and **Ferdy Lapuz**, who provided the idea for the film's story and was actively marketing this Philippine entry.

Our evening began with the post-screening party for **Charlize Theron**'s "North Country." It is always sad to see a star at her own party, surrounded by bodyguards and herded into a cordoned-off area, and thus unable to mingle with most of the guests. That's what happened at this event to Charlize, who is usually approachable. Being inaccessible was most likely not her choice.

It was the men's turn to gawk at the goods on display at Toronto's Hugo Boss store, site of "Proof's" premiere party. Gwyneth had that familiar bemused look when she arrived.

Tuesday was finally a free day, or at least there were no press cons in the morning or afternoon. So we wrote some and then took a cab to the home of my **Tia Doting**, cousins **Dalisay** and **Diwata**—as you can tell from these very Filipino names, I had a very patriotic uncle—for a very welcome Pinoy lunch.

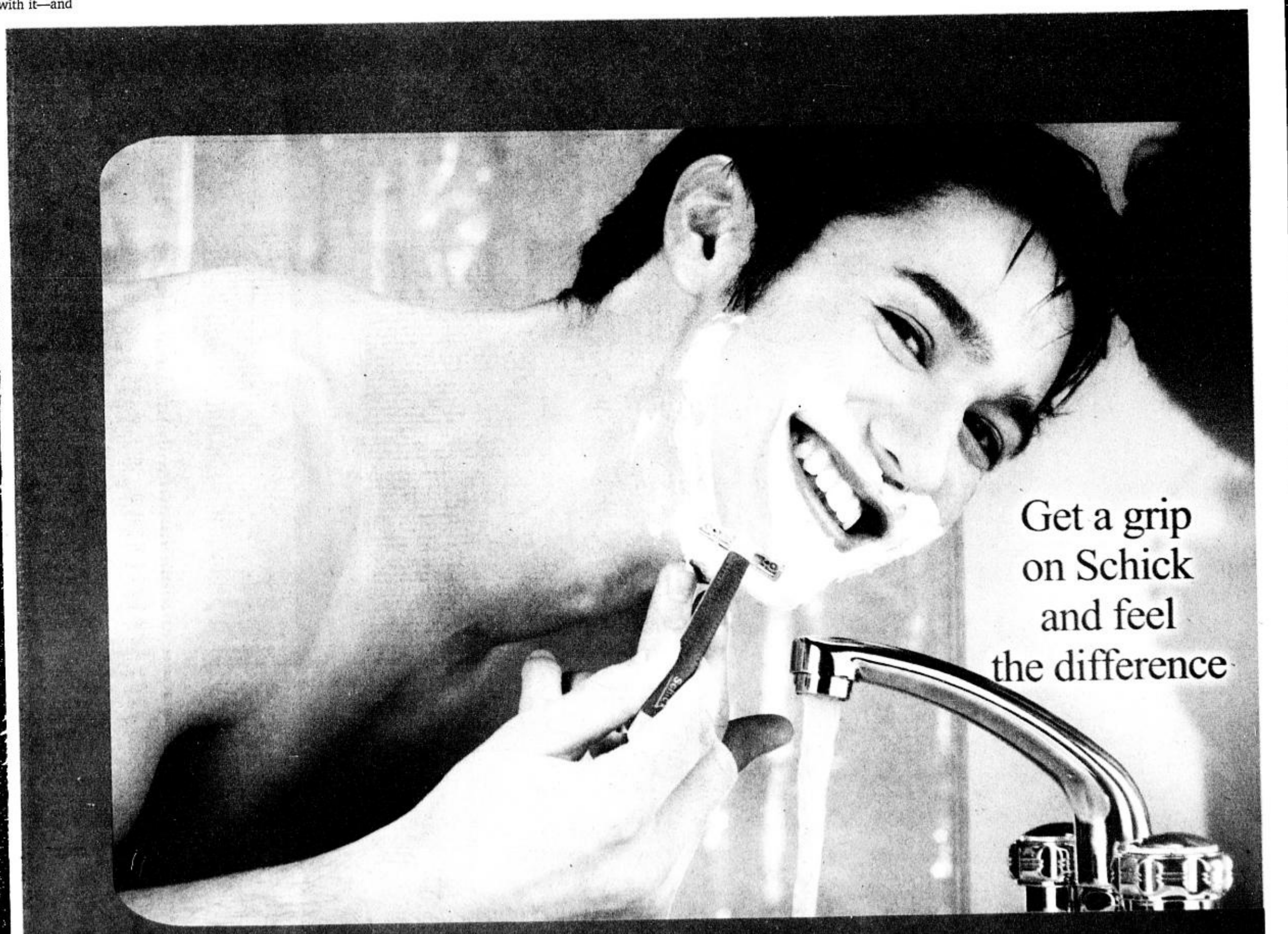
Then it was time for parties again—tough assignment, yes. First stop: the Lions Gate cocktail party. There was a gap before the second bash so we walked back to the hotel to pack for our departure the next day. Our final party during our stay was fittingly grand—jointly hosted by InStyle magazine and our press group. With a magazine that reports on the latest trends as a co-host, the affair was the most elegantly decorated, of course, and drew stars led by **Joaquin Phoenix**, whose film, "Walk the Line," and his performance drew raves at the fest.

One for the road

In the morning, while my wife **Janet** hied off to see Niagara Falls, I had to attend one more press con, this time for another stop-motion feature which is also in the festival's gala presentation offerings: "Wallace & Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit." At least I got to hold a plasticine model of Gromit, which was handed to me by no less than "Wallace's" voice, creator and director, **Nick Park**. This three-time Oscar winner got the highest compliment from Time magazine. **Richard Corliss** declared "Wallace" as "one of the best films at the festival—and of the year."

On the plane, I read on Screen magazine that Ferdy clinched yet another distribution deal for "Masahista," this time for France, Belgium, Luxembourg and Switzerland. I was happy for "Masahista." Me? I was happy just to be able to finally get some sleep.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)



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Taklobo (*Tridacna gigas*)
• Sukat: 4ft 6in; Bigat: 200-500kg

Huwag kolektahin o bilhin.
Huwag sirain ang bahura.

Photo: Stefan Donoval

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Home is Seawind's Pauline Wilson

The renowned jazz vocalist has roots in Siquijor, from where her ancestors sailed to Hawaii in the 1920s

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

SEAWIND'S "FOLLOW YOUR ROAD" RANKS AMONG the most inspirational songs ever written, and undeniably adding to its appeal is the clear, resonant voice of the '70s band's lead singer, Pauline Wilson.

Wilson has lent her unique talent to other Seawind hits, such as the romantic "Stay" and the foot-stomping "He Loves You."

Unknown to many, the Hawaiian native—who arrived to a welcome party at Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt, Makati, on Friday evening—was inspired to sing by her Filipino father.

Her grandparents, born and raised on Siquijor Island, had sailed to Hawaii in 1920.

The girl literally grew up with the sound of music, as her father, born in 1924, became a professional musician.

Pauline took to the live band circuit via Seawind. After the band broke up, she became a sought-after session and touring singer.

She has contributed to the recordings of Kevyn Lettau, Bruce Hornsby, Celine Dion, Jim Messina, The Crusaders and The Yellowjackets. She holds the distinction of being the only artist from Hawaii to ever receive a Grammy Award, for her duet with George Benson that came out in the multi-artist compilation "In Harmony."

Filipino fans will hear Pauline's distinct vocals firsthand when she performs on Sept. 27 and 28 to celebrate Merk's third anniversary, and on Sept. 30 at the Ayala Food and Entertainment Center in Ayala Center Cebu.

Earlier, in an e-mail to INQUIRER Entertainment, Pauline said that, aside from the fact that she is part-Filipino, she loved coming here because of the food and the local audience's response to her.

"Filipinos are a very lively, responsive and passionate people," Pauline said.

She believes her music strikes a chord with Pinoys because of the lyrics.

In her upcoming concerts, she promises to play the big favorites from her "Intuition," "Tribute" and Seawind days—"Never Let Go," "Street Life," "You are the Sunshine" and "Good Morning Heartache."

After her Manila shows, Pauline heads back to the United States, where all the original members of Seawind, after 21 years, are currently working together on a brand-new CD.

That should keep her busy for a while, but Pauline vows to come back to share her new music with Filipinos.

After all, the Philippines is home to her, too.

Kyla sings for Catanduanes

Kyla is set to perform at the Music Museum on Sept. 30 to help raise funds for Catanduanes' youth. She will be joined by Kundiman songstress Carmen Camacho and other local artists and performers in what would be the first ever gathering of the island's top musicians for a gala of Bicol songs and music. The concert is dubbed as "vocescatanduanes; musika, tanog, bikol."

Local talents Bagyo Voice Ensemble and Nonong and the Salatan Acoustics are singing favorite Bicolano melodies—"Pantomina (Mayor & Menor)," "Punay," "Sarong Banggi" and "Inang Catandungan."

The show will be directed by "Videoke King" scriptwriter Ramon Sarmiento. Musical direction by Jose M. Icaranom Jr.

For tickets and reservations, call 8028033.

Today

"Ang Palasyo ni Valentin," a zarzuela directed by Soxie Topacio will run at the Tanghalang PETA-Phinma, PETA Theater Center. Show times are at 2:30 p.m. and 7: 30 p.m.

Barako Boys at Metropolis Star Alabang; 5 p.m.

Cueshe at SM Dasmariñas; 5 p.m.

Redline Image Models Jay Coronel, Alvin Puertollano, Rico Ricafrente and Chito Cummings at Robinson's Metroeast; 4 p.m.

Margarita at Sky Lounge Music Bar, Diamond Hotel

Six Part Invention at Ratsky Malate

6th Day at Robinsons Dasmariñas, Cavite

Tomorrow

NINA

The RX Concert Series featuring Barbie Almalbis live at the RX Studios

Bernie Uy at Merk's

Retrostars at RJ Guitar Bar. Call 899-1658.

REtroSPECT at Metrobar, West Ave., Quezon City

Freestyle at Tavern on the Square

REtroSPECT at Ratsky Malate

Sept. 27

REtroSPECT at Bagaberde, Pasig

Redline Image Models Jay Coronel, Alvin Puertollano, Rico Ricafrente and Chito Cummings at Robinsons Galleria; 4 p.m.

Reuben Laurente at Hyatt's Calesa Bar

Sept. 28

"Funk-A-Delic" at Club Mwah! featuring the Hotlegs. Call 3743741.

Side A at Tavern on the Square

Dawn Bande at Bonfire Grill, Marikina Riverbanks Mall; 8:30 p.m.

K and the Boxers at Klownz Araneta

Rachel Alejandro at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Sept. 29

Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez in "Love You, Hate You, Love You," at Merk's

Rockin' Revival at Funnside, Timog Ave., QC

Carlo Aquino at Ratsky Tomas Morato

Sept. 30

Sarah Geronimo in her first major concert called "The Other Side" at the Araneta Coliseum with special guests Piolo Pascual and Mark Bautista. Call 9115555.

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental

Oct. 1

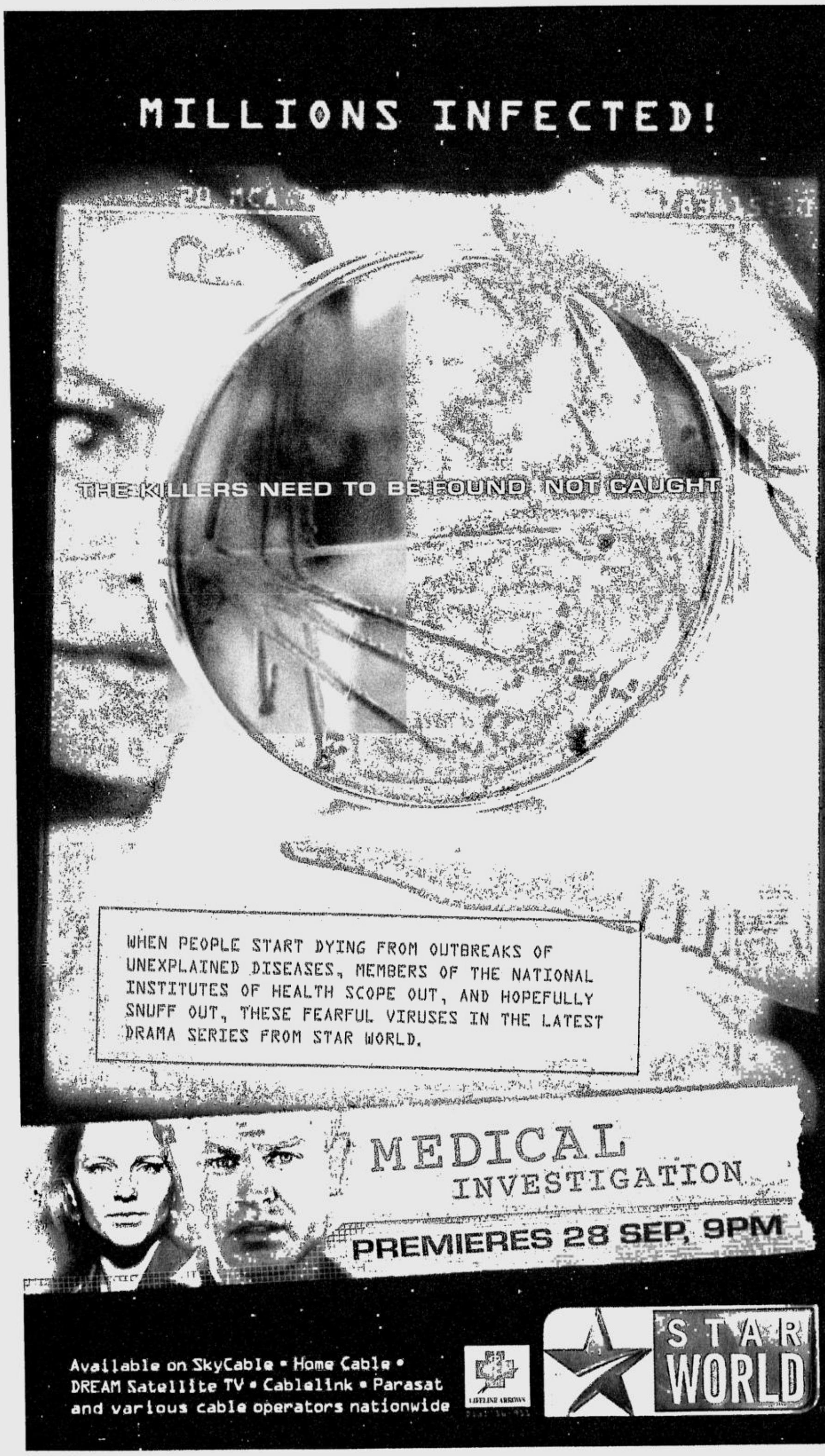
MYMP (Juris and Chin) first major concert at the Music Museum; 8 p.m. Call 7216726.

Nina in her first major concert at the Araneta Coliseum with guests Nyoy Volante and South Border. Call Ticketnet at 9115555.

Mitch Valdes in "A Rockin' Comedy" at the Captain's Bar, Mandarin Oriental

Cueshe at SM North Edsa; 5 p.m.

REDLINE Image Models



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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

B1

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ELAINE DICHUPA, COO

STAFF outside The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Manila office in 1885.

ELAINE in a recent reunion in Hong Kong with expats who had worked in HSBC Philippines.

'Successes came as surprises'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HSBC'S MODERN BANKING history in the Philippines may be summarized through one person: Elaine T. Dichupa.

"I provide history to the bank," she says. "My life is the bank. My blood is pantone red [the precise color of the bank's logo]. I have been married to the bank longer than my husband."

First job

Elaine, HSBC's chief operating officer, is the bank's second longest serving employee. She joined the bank in 1972, when computing the interest rate of an account earned took a month and was done manually.

A different story

Some 33 years ago it was a very different story.

Elaine had no intention of working in the Philippines. She finished economics at the University of San Francisco and only came home for a vacation. Then into the hippie era, Elaine was set on going back to the United States.

Unfortunately, martial law was declared and she could not leave. Her father did not want to see her idle and worked to open doors for her. He urged her to work for Hongkong and Shanghai Bank which was his employer's bank and he knew the CEO.

Elaine resisted as her image of the bank was one for old people. She recalls getting her money for the US trip (her family lived in Bacolod) from the Binondo branch which was full of aging male tellers. But being an obedient daughter, she applied, dressed in bell-bottom pants and a midriff top. She was accepted.

First paycheck

Elaine can rattle off the dates of milestones of the bank such as its computerization in 1974, the first ATM in 1984.

HSBC turns 130 years old in the Philippines in November. It carries a rich history from the time it set up an agent in Manila a few months after the bank was founded in Hong Kong and formally opened a branch in November 1875 at Callejon de San Gabriel in Manila.

HSBC's agent in Manila, Charles Barnes, moved to a 2-story "wooden" building at 7 Plaza de San Gabriel. The following year, Barnes expanded the building to accommodate a bigger treasury room and more offices. The bank remained in this location until 1971 when it moved to Makati City. The Manila branch was where Elaine got her allowance.

It was reopened in 1995 (when the New Banking Act was passed, allowing foreign banks to open more branches).

Elaine started as a contractual employee and got P12.50 an hour. She was paid P1 an hour for overtime. Hired in July 1972 but regularized in December 1973—she claims to have been the longest contractual employee of the bank. By that time the office of HSBC was along Ayala Avenue.

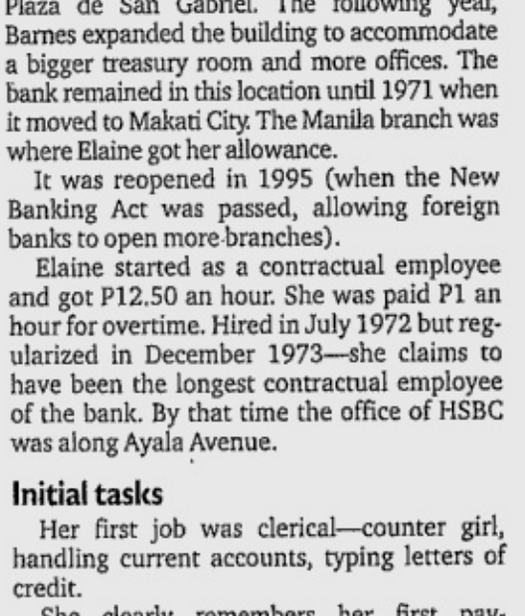
Initial tasks

Her first job was clerical—counter girl, handling current accounts, typing letters of credit.

She clearly remembers her first paycheck—P429—and the succeeding ones. The first one was not enough to support herself and she had to rely on her parents. Apartment rent was P600 a month, which her father paid, plus a maid. Her father had even given her a car to make sure she stayed in the country. In April 1974, her pay was hiked to P800 a month.

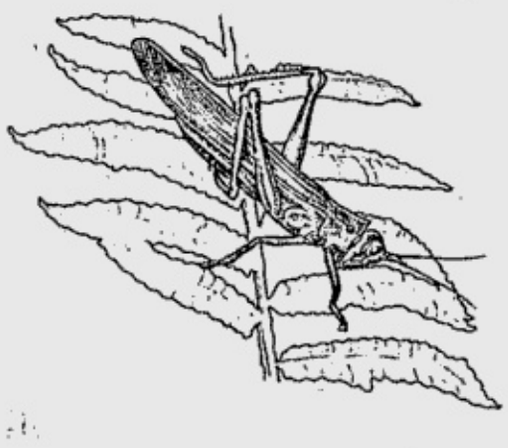
When she joined HSBC, Elaine says a half tank of gas cost P5 while a whole sans rival at Goldilocks cost P20.

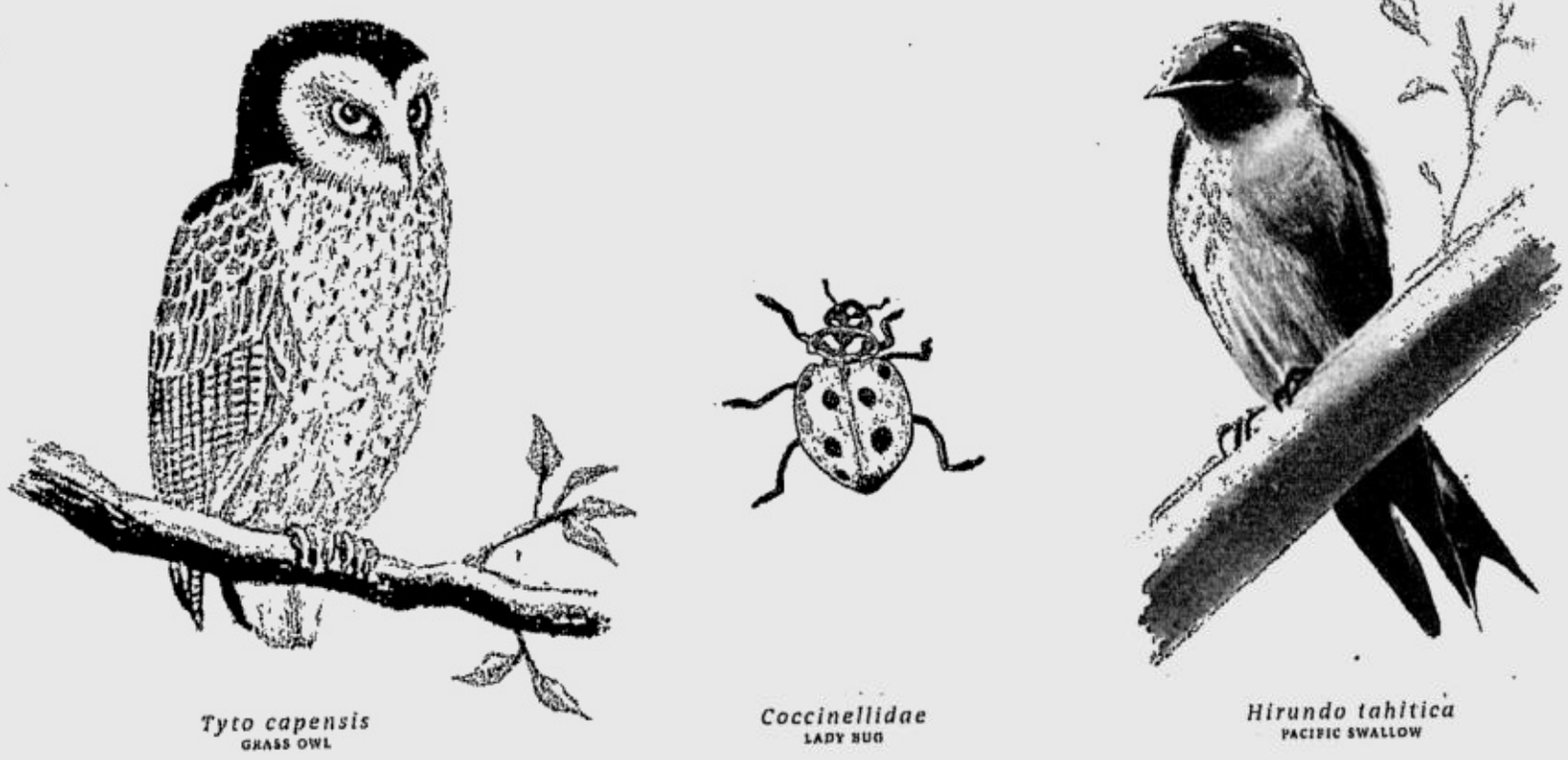
SUCCESSES/ B2

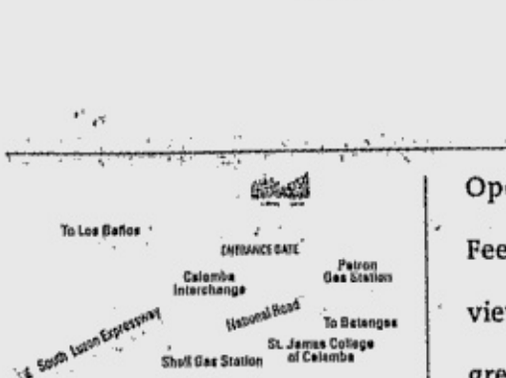


ELAINE and husband Boy with daughters Sam (left) and May (right).

MEET YOUR NEW NEIGHBORS







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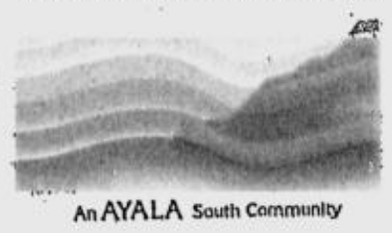

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Discovering Trinidad & Tobago

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

BUSINESSMAN AND FREQUENT business traveler, Vernon Prieto, shares his recent travel experiences in the Caribbean, particularly Trinidad and Tobago.

Dear Sandra,

I just returned from a very short but memorable visit to Trinidad. I can boast having traveled in the different continents of the world except for Antarctica but oddly enough, this was my first trip to the Caribbean.

Getting there was a real challenge. I had to fly to the US west coast, then immediately connected to another flight to the east coast. There, I had to wait for another flight to Port of Spain, the vibrant capital of the twin island Republic of Trinidad & Tobago. Travel time was just under 30 hours!

I wanted to go by way of Europe, from London, but I had to stop by Seattle for my sister Tina's birthday thus I took the longer route. (For future reference, Menchie Gregorio of Aerolineas Argentinas suggests traveling to Sydney, then to Buenos Aires and Miami for flight to Port of Spain. Goh Mheng Keng of Malaysia Airlines recommends flying to Kuala Lumpur, South Africa, Buenos Aires, Miami then Port of Spain.)

CATHOLIC Cathedral, Port of Spain

BUSINESS TRAVEL

Trinidad & Tobago is the land of Calypso (not Jamaica as most people think) and its newer upbeat form, the Soca and of Steelpan music.

Trinidad and its sister island Tobago were discovered by Christopher Columbus in 1498. Columbus spotted the island's three mountains and named it "La Trinidad" for the Holy Trinity.

The gateway to Trinidad is the Piarco International Airport. It is located 25 km from Port of Spain. Depending on the traffic (which is really bad during rush hour), it is a mere 30 minutes drive to the city. Visiting Trinidad costs a pretty penny. A taxi ride from the airport to town will cost about $25.

Port of Spain is the vibrant capital of the Republic. It is considered one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the Caribbean. Modern high rise buildings are found next to beautiful centuries-old gingerbread-type houses and Catholic Churches. It is a city of parks and greenery, of high-end residential districts (St. Claire and St. Anne's) and of nightclubs, bars, casinos and restaurants. It also has the largest round-about in the world—the Queen's Park Savannah! Located around the Queen's Park Savannah are architectural treasures called the "Magnificent Seven."

They are beautiful buildings and homes that reflect the history, culture and traditions that are truly Trinidadian. I was very lucky to have Sister Jeanne, Directress of the Cluny Project for the Needy as tour guide otherwise I would not have experienced the true essence of the city.

Other visitors opt to stay outside the city like in Maracas Bay, one of Trinidad's top beaches where you can enjoy the famous shark and bake (shark and fried bread—yummy, trust me!). The beaches in Tobago are also recommended.

Like transportation, hotels are also quite expensive. There are international chain hotels in Port of Spain like the Hilton and the Crowne Plaza. I chose to stay in a local type inn called the Normandie Inn located in the posh neighborhood of St. Anne's. There are many alternative accommodations including quaint and charming guesthouses. Accommodations are costly. A local inn like the Normandie will charge a little more than $100 per night including breakfast.

The currency in Trinidad & Tobago, or TNT, is the Trinidad & Tobago Dollar. Currently, the exchange rate is around 6.00 TT dollars for $1.

The best time to visit is during the dry season which is from January to May. Between September and October is what locals call "Petit Careme" or Indian Summer. It is smack in the middle of the wet or rainy season which starts in June and ends in December. The weather is typically warm but you can always expect a gentle sea breeze to cool you down.

While in Trinidad schedule a day trip to the many islands in the lesser Antilles group. Many inter-island airlines offer great fares to the many beautiful islands in the archipelago. I recommend Caribbean Star for its dependability and great service. Island countries that can be visited within a 30-minute to 1 hour travel time are Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia. They also have 15 day passes with unlimited travel to most of the other islands including Puerto Rico, Antigua, the Virgin Islands, Dominica, etc. Unfortunately, Filipino passport holders will need visas to visit most of these islands.

Grenada is the spice island of the Caribbean. Its capital St. George's is definitely the most beautiful harbor town in the area. The harbor is actually the crater of a submerged volcano. On the cliffs are gaily painted homes and buildings. In the water are equally colorful boats of all sizes and flags. If one is not aware, everything looks fine and dandy but after further scrutiny you will notice that the imposing Catholic Cathedral is roofless. After a closer look, one will note that many buildings are actually damaged—caused by Hurricane Ivan (nicknamed "the Terrible") a year ago.

Where to stay in Greneda? The Monmot Hote, which is a short walk to the beach in l'Anse Aux Epines.

How else to go around the Caribbean? On a cruise on board the Norwegian Cruise Lines and Princess Cruise Lines. They have a host of travel itineraries and friendly packages.

For feedback, please e-mail sdg1402@yahoo.com

HUB TEAM in Hongkong. Elaine is fourth from right.

FIRST computer training in Hong Kong. Elaine is third from left.

Successes came...

From page B1

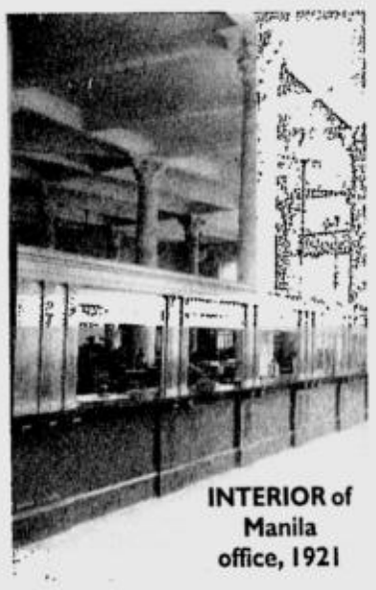
Turning point

The year 1974 proved to be a turning point in Elaine's life. That was the year the bank was computerized. All bank employees were given tests to check their affinity for computers.

Only two passed and Elaine topped the test. She and the other lady were sent to Hong Kong for training.

That test spelled the career path of Elaine in the bank. The two of them became programmers and they set up the electronic data processing center (as IT was then called) of HSBC.

With computerization, everything was simpler. She recalls the handling time for PLDT's dividend checks was cut to a few hours from the previous two to three months. Checks were then typed one by one.



INTERIOR of Manila office, 1921

MANILA office in 1965

Elaine stayed in data processing for 11 years. She was made manager in 1980.

In 1989 she and her team worked on the Hong Kong Bank Universal Banking System (HUB). The Philippines was only the second country to implement this which means all of its operations run under one system.

The day the HUB was implemented in Manila was unforgettable. It was December 1, 1989—the day when soldiers under then Col. Gringo Honasan wanted to oust then President Corazon Aquino and marched into Ayala. They failed. But Elaine succeeded in implementing the system, danger to life notwithstanding.

By this time, Elaine's technical expertise was not just known and needed in the Philippine office. By the early 90s she was posted in Hong Kong to implement the HUB systems in several countries. This made her the first Filipino from HSBC to be given an international posting.

"I was the first international secondee from the Philippines. I worked in HUB. I was with the team that implemented systems in other countries," she explains.

Two years later, HSBC in the Philippines wanted to pursue consumer banking but did not have a person to do it.

"Somebody called me in Hong Kong to ask me to head the personal banking division. I asked on what basis? And the answer was I can talk my way out of everything," she laughs.

She launched several products like the AssetVantage, Premier, credit cards.

But after a few years, Elaine asked to be transferred. "After I gave birth to these products I didn't know how to make it grow," she states.

In 1998 "I moved to my elements" which is operations.

But Elaine's "children" turned out well. According to the latest Credit Card Association of the Philippines (CCAP), HSBC is the fastest growing credit card in the country with a 25 percent market growth vs industry's 7.8 percent. In terms of average spending, HSBC's classic cards are close to three times the industry, while HSBC Mabuhay Miles Gold is around 13 times the industry.

Different hats

Today as COO, Elaine wears different hats—she is in charge of administration, legal, security, the compliance officer. A multitasker. And still the only the only female HSBC COO in the Asia Pacific region.

Having been one of the few women bankers when she started, Elaine had her difficulties too. But one thing that helped her was her US education. She is able to talk to anyone at a time when there were few female executives. She is often assigned as the spokesperson whenever the staff needed something from the CEO.

She has been under ten CEOs in the Philippines. She is proud that she has paved the way for Filipinos to be seconded abroad.

Elaine considers herself a strict but caring boss. She knows it is her people who make her look good.

In her room is a container for coins with a sign that says if anyone calls her "Ma'am" they should put in coins to be donated to Gawad Kalinga, a group that builds homes for the poor.

Elaine will retire in two years after rendering the maximum 35 years of service to the bank. She says she will focus on socio-civic activities and serve the Lord after HSBC.

For now the bank is her life. And to her "my successes all came as surprises."

Recently, she spent an entire Sunday by herself in her home. At the end of the day she was sluggish and depressed. But as soon as Monday morning came, she was full of life again and rearing to go to work. After 33 years, and becoming the highest ranking Filipino in the HSBC family, Elaine Dichupa still puts in at least 10 hours of work a day.

GARDEN party in Manila at the house of the HSBC bank manager with then Governor General William Howard Taft (with moustache, in white at center), who later became US president.

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Making Waves to Become the First Remittance Bank in the Country

Significant Beginnings

When a small rural bank broke ground in 1956, the time and event has been marked in history as that very same bank evolved into one of the premier development banks in the Philippines–LBC Development Bank. From a start-up capital of less than one million pesos, the bank has grown its assets and became a medium-sized thrift bank until LBC Group acquired it in June 1995. It only had three branches then, including its former Pasay Head Office. Despite the financial crisis that took its toll on the country in 1997, LBC Development Bank remained firm and unyielding, and coped with the financial strain by offering innovative products and excellent customer service to the banking public. Through a more aggressive business approach, LBC Development Bank was able to take advantage of the economic boom that followed, thus adding nine new branches, bringing its total number to 12. Anticipating more business opportunities in the central business district, LBC Development Bank transferred its Head Office from Pasay to Makati and eight more branches augmented the bank's network, bringing the count to a total of 20 branches.

Since its beginnings, LBC Development Bank has complemented the worldwide remittance business of the LBC Group – a pioneering force in the remittance industry since 1985. Recognizing the business potential of the millions of Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) in the country, the bank has developed means to efficiently deliver its services and address the ever-growing needs of our OFWs and their families.

In support of the government's thrust to encourage influx of remittances to the Philippines to help boost its economy, LBC Development Bank has provided services that will encourage OFWs to save money in the country just by simply maintaining their bank accounts. Thus, LBC Development Bank started to offer LBC Bank ATM Bilis Padala, the fastest, most convenient way to receive money from anywhere in the world. This is just one of the many product and service innovations introduced by LBC Development Bank as it steps up to achieve its goal of becoming the country's premiere remittance bank.

Unstoppable Growth

Over the years, LBC Development Bank has shown significant and unstoppable growth in the various aspects of its business. Its assets, from 2001 to 2004, reached to two and a half billion pesos (P2.5B), an all-time high of 31%, which has cultivated a strong confidence among its client base. During the same period, deposits shot up to 45% from previous years, soaring to an astounding sum of over two billion pesos (P2B).

LBC Development Bank's ranking has moved a steady climb in terms of its assets and deposits. By the end of the second quarter of 2005, it already ranks 18th in terms of its assets and 16th in terms of deposits, way higher than that of more than 80 thrift banks in the country. The latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) figures also speaks of LBC Development Bank's healthy capital standing which is currently at P340.5M, higher than the required P325M capital.

From these latest financial figures, there is no doubt that LBC Development Bank has reaped enormous gains from its investments. Proof to this is the positive turn-around in the bank's profitability status which has carried on from the end of 2004 up to the present.

Remarkable Victories

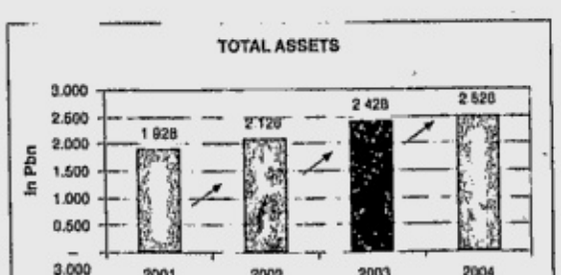
LBC Development Bank was not spared from the financial crisis of 1997. The ill effects were felt three years later as the bank had to let go of income opportunities to stay afloat. But unlike others who succumbed to defeat, LBC Development Bank withstood and fought against difficulties and made a 180-degree turn in 2003, fruit of the various programs the bank has executed to sustain its stability – bank operations was enhanced and made more efficient with the introduction of a sophisticated computer system; risk management programs were also applied for more stringent measures of control and security; a major reorganization took effect to create a more focused and result-oriented work environment; employee education became a new thrust and trainings were conducted to heighten employees' product & service awareness; finally, corporate governance seminars were also given to bank managers to hone their leadership and management skills.

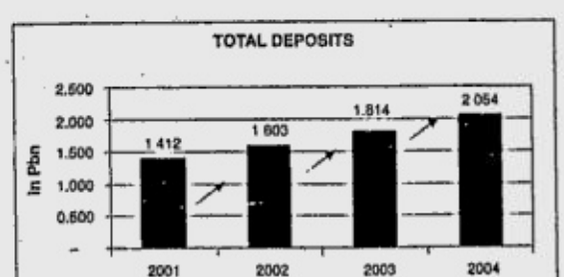
Proactive Measures

Recognizing the inherent risks associated with bank operations, LBC Development Bank has adopted various programs on risk management as part of the proactive measures it has been striving to implement. Part of this is a system upgrade, through the acquisition of a state-of-the-art computer application system from an international software company. This new system, which promised online functionality among its many features, has made transactions more efficient, information analyses more reliable and corporate productivity better than that prior to the use of the application. A Quality Assurance and Internal Control Department was also created to supplement existing control measures in the bank, promote service quality and ensure each branch's adherence to internal policies and government regulations. To top it all off, bank employees, or associates as they are called, underwent customer service trainings which guided them in keeping the bank's integrity and customer's satisfaction on top of mind in conducting business.

Enhanced Service and Product Line

Testament to the excellence of the LBC name, LBC Development Bank has introduced and continuously developed a service and product line that underscores the bank's mandate on quality deposit and loan products that adapt to the changing needs of its clientele. LBC Development Bank has offered 24-hour banking convenience by becoming an equity member of Megalink – the pioneer ATM network in the country. 30 ATMs were installed in various branches and offsite locations to provide easy access banking and ATM services to cardholders. Now, customers can go to any of the over 5,000 ATMs and 1,000 merchant establishments nationwide when they need it. More recently, LBC Development Bank has introduced the Debit Bills facility, a service feature that allows cardholders to pay their utility bills through any Megalink ATM.





Unparalleled Industry Breakthroughs

With LBC Development Bank's tested and proven resiliency over the years, there is no wonder it has broken barriers in offering services which are nothing short of innovation. Two prestigious awards in 2004 – the National Consumers Quality Award and the Superbrands Award – are merits bestowed to LBC Development Bank for its unwavering commitment to its loyal customers and the outstanding service that has set the bar of excellence in the banking industry. With LBC Development Bank sustaining its growth over the years, it has instilled its trusted and reputable name in the hearts and minds of Filipinos. All these impressive qualities have driven LBC Development Bank to give customers the quality of service they truly deserve – a service fit for a king. Now stronger than ever, LBC Development Bank is making waves to realize another industry breakthrough – to become the first remittance bank in the Philippines.

ERNESTO Rodriguez holds up a box of prized "diwal" or angel wings.

Concrete jungle ...

From page B12

and sweet peppers stuffed with tuna that are favorite fare for breakfast among the Salcedo crowd.

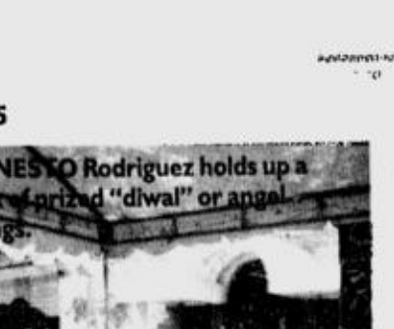
Also happy with his experience with the market is Ernesto Rodriguez who sells live crabs and fresh shrimps, and other bounties from the sea.

The Bacolod native has been in operation for a year and has developed a loyal clientele because of his fresh prawns and crabs from Negros, and scallops and prized *diwal* or angel wings from Roxas.

"We are selling three times more the volume compared to when we started about a year ago," Rodriguez says.

He says his top draws are the live crabs, cooked chili crabs and home made jams and preserves done according to his grandmother's recipes.

Then there's Richard and Michelle Santiago who sell over a thousand sticks of Ineng's barbecue a day.


CHIKEE Banzon with her line of flavored iced tea

Although they now have an outlet at Market!Market!, Michelle says they still make it a point to go to the market because of her loyalty to her clients.

"I have been selling in *tiangges* for five years but it is here where we make our biggest sales," she says.

That loyalty she attributes to the taste and quality of her barbecue. The secret, she says, is in the way the barbecues are grilled. They are constantly turned over to keep the meat tender and juicy.

CARL Van Hoven III with Dumaguete's famous native delicacies

Also attracting a lot of buyers is the Budbud stall supervised by Carl and Maribel Van Hoven.

Budbud kabog is a popular delicacy in Maribel's hometown of Dumaguete, Negros Oriental and this she shares with the buyers in Salcedo.

They do not take any shortcuts in the preparation, which is why their *budbud* is worthy of Dumaguete's pride.

Similarly happy vendors are partners Volet Sombero and Bessie Cruz who put up their outlet selling genuine Kapampangan food such as *tortang bangus*, *caldereta* and *tibok-tibok* as a way of giving back having survived cancer.

Sombero is in remission from breast cancer while Cruz's daughter has survived cancer of the lymph nodes.

Sombero says their estimated P5,000 in sales from the Saturday sale are used to fund charity work.

"We cook for a cause," Sombero says.

Though most of the vendors do earn, there are a few who don't.

To decide on which vendors from the waiting list will replace them, Medina says a selection committee of five Bel Air women judge the lucky ones based on the uniqueness on the product, the quality and the ability to enhance the variety of the market.

The formula continues to work and patrons keep coming in. The vendors are prepared, and they certainly do not disappoint.

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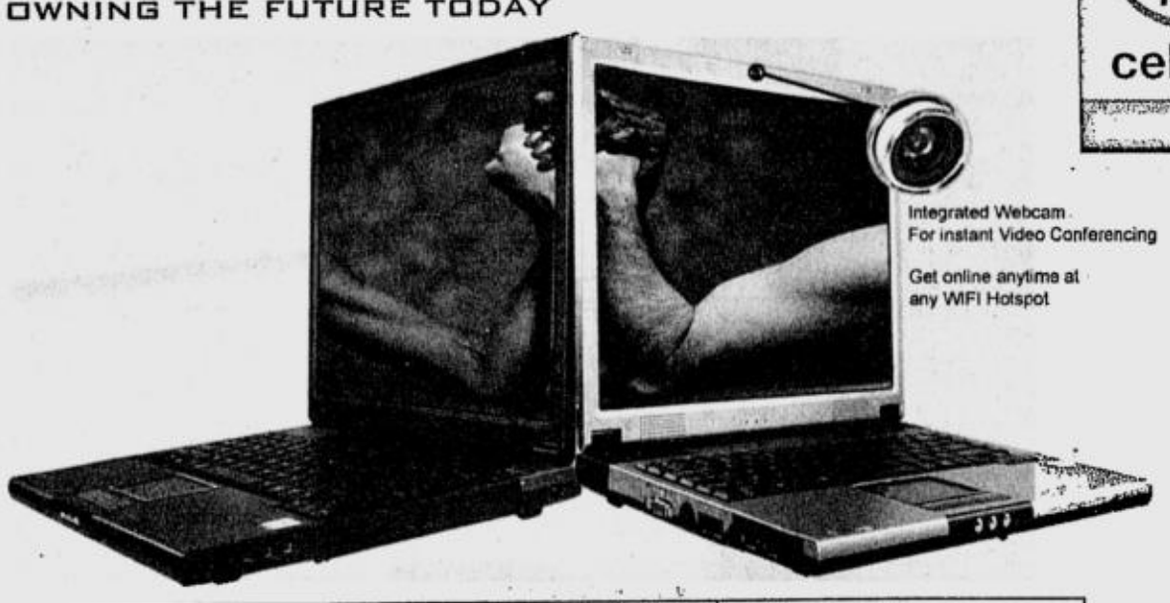
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UNDP

Central Cebu Water REMIND

We are looking for Qualified Consultants to conduct the
Mid-Term Evaluation for the Water REMIND Project.

The Central Cebu Water REMIND (WRP) is a five-year technical cooperation project funded by the Netherlands Government which aims to contribute in ensuring continuous availability of water of good quality to all existing and future water uses and users in Central Cebu at affordable cost and in an environmentally friendly and sustainable way. The University of San Carlos (USC) through its Water Resources Center (WRC) is the lead executing agency directly accountable for the achievement of the project goals and objectives. WRP operates in Central Cebu covering the geopolitical boundaries of six (6) cities and ten (10) municipalities namely: Cebu City, Danao City, Lapu-lapu City, Mandaue City, Talisay City, Toledo City, municipalities of Asturias, Balamban, Carmen, Compostela, Consolacion, Cordova, Liloan, Minglanilla, Naga and Pinamungahan.

The Midterm Evaluation

The WRP mid-term evaluation is a planned mission aiming at assessing the project progress since it started in December 2002. At the end of the mission, an objective analysis of the project performance will be made, and a concrete list of worked out recommendations for the remaining project period will be formulated in consultation with the Project Management Office.

Midterm Evaluation Team

The evaluation team will be carried out for a maximum period of three-weeks. All candidates must be fluent in written and spoken English as well as display excellent leadership and communication skills. The evaluation team will be composed of consultants with the following expertise:

Team Leader	**Water Resources Management Expert.** Foreign national, preferably with working experience in Asia • at least 15 years experience in all aspects of WRM including: decision support system development for WRM for a developing metropolitan area; paradigm, principles and operational strategies of WRM in developing countries and familiarity with the Philippine governance context ; • extensive experience in project development, implementation, M&E, and logical framework programming; • background in environmentally-sound, politically-feasible and socially-acceptable strategies of WRM
Team Member 1	**Environmental Scientist/Water Management Expert.** Pilipino national; preferably with previous experience in evaluating grant official development assistance • extensive field experience in water resources and watershed management; • experience in livelihood generation within the context of WRM; • proficient in project cycle management and the Philippine EIA system; familiar with LGU-NGO-PO dynamics
Team Member 2	**Governance/ Institutional Dev. & Participatory Dev. Expert.** Pilipino national; preferably with previous experience in evaluating grant official development assistance • extensive experience in project development and management, policy analysis, education and training in the environmental context/sector; adept in Philippine participatory governance both local and national dynamics; • specializes in institutional development, organizational development and capacity building strategies/ methods of government, academe and civil society; • familiar with the sustainable livelihood generation and corresponding issues affecting livelihood implemented within the WRM environment

Evaluation Approach and Sources of Information

The evaluation team will gather information from the various project implementing organizations, project partners, stakeholders, and the local community beneficiaries of the small scale projects.

Duration and Itinerary: November, 2005 for a period not to exceed 22-days inclusive of travel time, briefing, field visits, reporting and debriefing. The itinerary will be finalized during the briefing meeting.

Qualified applicants should submit a letter of intent with a comprehensive resume and relevant credentials regarding their experiences and indicating the position they are applying for, together with a 2x2 colored picture by post or email to:

Water REMIND Project
Fr. Herman van Engelen, Project Director
USC-WRC Talamban
Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City
Tel. Nr.: (032) 346-7941
Email: mail@wrp.org.ph or pio@wrp.org.ph

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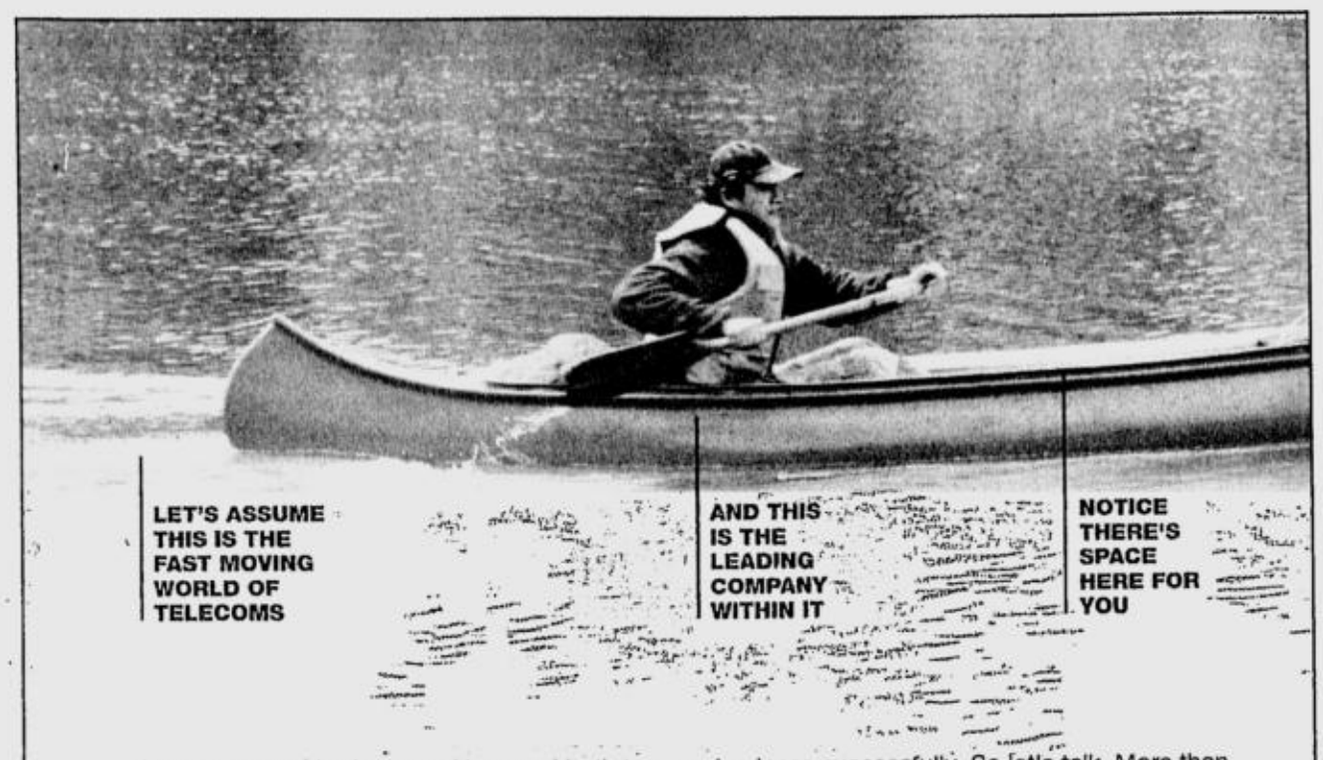

Manpower and brainpower. You need both to run a business successfully. So let's talk. More than half of Ericsson's employees worldwide are university graduates and over a quarter of our research staff have technology PhD's. The best brains and the leading telecoms company? Interesting combination. Think where it will take you.

LOCAL CUSTOMER SUPPORT MANAGER The Local Customer Support Manager shall manage the resources needed to provide Network Support according to agreed standards, budget, contracts, processes and procedures. He/She shall report directly to the Head of Services for line related issues and to the Market Unit Ericsson Local Support Manager for functional issues. The main tasks are the following: ensures the local customer interface functions smoothly, ensures management escalation in case of emergencies; responsible for the conduct of Performance discussion for hosted resources; recommends to the Market Unit Ericsson Local Support Manager hiring of resources based on sales and manpower forecast by Accounts and Competence Area groups; prepares, reviews and monitors budget; ensures the agreed processes and procedures relevant to the Market Unit Ericsson Support operations and management are followed, managed, measured and improved. Candidate must have a degree in Business and/or Telecommunications; at least 6 years of experience from the Technical Support area within the Telecom or similar Industry and at least 2 years in managerial or supervisory position. Able to communicate and lead others. Able to understand the whole workflow within the business area. Has established a network within Ericsson. Effective decision maker and well organized. A good motivator.

PROJECT MANAGER The Project Office organization under the Project Management Office, provides the resources to run projects in Ericsson Philippines. The main purpose of the project manager is to develop a project specification and establish an organization required for project. The Project Manager heads and manages a customer project, in accordance with agreed budget, time schedules, scope and specifications, exceeding customer expectations. Candidate must have at least 5 years experience in the field of telecommunications integration projects. Knowledgeable in the project management models, such as, PROPS-C and PM4U. Good managerial and project management skills.

Please forward your resume to
human.resources.enp@ericsson.com
or Human Resources & Organization
7th Floor Octagon Bldg., San Maguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, P.O. Box 13644, Pasig City 1600
Before 03 October 2005

ERICSSON
TAKING YOU FORWARD

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tyler

(Owned and operated by Republic Retailers) is looking for:

STORE FRONTLINER, FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME (SALES STAFF)

Job Summary
Reports to the Store Operations Manager, is responsible for in-store selling, organizing, communicating, knowing and marketing of products through exceptional customer service, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers.

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

Job Summary
Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for performance management, recruitment, implementation of HR policies & procedures, administering discipline, and providing information and support to employees' needs and concerns.

Job Requirements
3-5 years implementation and administration of compensation experience
3-5 years designing plans and programs for direct pay, incentive pay, and/or sales compensation experience

I.T. PROGRAMMER/MANAGER

Technical Requirements
Knowledgeable in .NET technologies particularly C#, ADO.NET, and ASP.NET (required).
Knowledge in object-oriented programming and n-tier applications preferred.
Experience in using HTML and JavaScript.
Experienced in relational databases particularly SQL Server 2000 and MS Access. Knowledge about Interbase is a plus.
Preferably knows about inventory and accounting systems.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Job Summary
Working under the President, attends to their needs, schedules, meetings, personal matters, communication, and confidential information, as well as other duties assigned.

STORE OPERATIONS MANAGER/DIRECTOR

Job Summary
Reports to the General Manager and is responsible for directing and controlling of operations of all stores, which affects sales and service. Constructs and recommends plans that will facilitate the company to develop and advance, while following the Mission and Vision of Republic Retailers.

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND HOW TO APPLY:
Go to www.republicretailers.com OR Get a Recruitment Brochure & Application Form from any of our stores: 2/F, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center, Makati City, or 1st Level Rockwell Power Plant Mall, Rockwell Drive corner Estrella St., Makati City, or 2nd Level Rustan's Shangri-La Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City.

(Only shortlisted applicants who have filled up an Application Form will be contacted.)

Be the one !!!

SYSTEMS ENGINEER
- Preferably graduate of I.T. related course or major in Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Excellent comunication skills
- 2 years working experience in supporting corporate LAN/WAN/hardware/software
- Highly proficient in Windows NT, Windows 2000 and XP
- Hands-on experience in supporting PABX and Telco equipment
- Hands-on experience in routers and VOIP equipment is a plus factor
- Work experience in a supporting Call Center infra is a big advantage

PROGRAMMERS
- At least 2 years experience in applications development
- Experienced in developing client, server or web - based applications
- Proficient in the following development tools: Visual Basic, VB Script, ASP, .NET, Lotus Notes, Java/J2EE
- Knowledgeable with the following database platforms: MS SQL 7/2000, MS Access

COPYWRITER/TECHNICAL WRITER
- M/F, Preferably Degree in Journalism or Mass Communication
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in the same discipline
- Should possess excellent communications & organizational skills
- Should attach a copy of portfolio together with their application form

GRAPHIC ARTIST
- Graduate of Fine Arts, Advertising or any related course from a reputable school
- Must have at least 3 yrs. experience in the same discipline
- Should possess excellent communications, written & organizational skills
- Proficiency in graphic web based software is a must i.e., Corel Draw, Photoshop, Illustrator, Pagemaker, Dreamweaver, Flash, Freehand and Frontpage
- Knowledgeable in copywriting is an advantage; can work with minimum supervision; must be resourceful and creative
- Should attach a copy of portfolio together with their application form

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long brown envelope: resume with full detailed job description and detailed contact info or e-mail application together with scanned photo to **hrd@mannasoft.com**. Deadline of submission is on or before **September 30, 2005, Friday.**
Previous applicants need not apply.

mannasoft technology corporation 2/F Republic Glass Bldg., 196 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

Be the one!!!

TERRITORY ACCOUNT MANAGERS
- M/F, Preferably graduates of IT- related courses
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal & communication skills
- Highly confident & aggressive, results oriented & a consistent quota achiever
- At least 5 years experience in Account Management and Business Development
- Must be creative and resourceful
- Has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly

SOLUTIONS ACCOUNT MANAGER
- M/F, Preferably graduates of IT- related courses
- Should possess exceptional interpersonal & communication skills
- 2 yrs. experience in I.T. or business solutions selling
- Highly confident & aggressive, results oriented & a consistent quota achiever
- Must be creative and resourceful; has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly
- Has the drive and desire to receive big commissions monthly

Applicants may apply personally or send the following documents filed in a long brown envelope: resume with full detailed job description and detailed contact info or e-mail application together with scanned photo to **hrd@mannasoft.com**. Deadline of submission is on or before **September 30, 2005, Friday.**
Previous applicants need not apply.

mannasoft technology corporation 2/F Republic Glass Bldg., 196 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229

Your World Of Opportunity

The global leader in market research, information and analysis invites you to join the organization as:

FINANCE ASSISTANT

Responsibilities:
- Collection of Account Receivable.
- Handle journal entries and analysis pertaining to accounts receivable and advances.
- Perform finance routine documentation and undertake general duties associated with the monitoring and analysis of receivables and advances.
- Interface with internal and external clients

Requirements:
- Graduate of BS Commerce / Business Administration major in Accountancy or BS Accountancy
- With at least 1-2 years related experience. Fresh graduates who belong to the top 20% of the class are welcome
- It will be an advantage if you are a CPA
- Hardworking and with good moral character
- Effective oral and written communication skills

Send your resume, transcript of records and most recent photo to:
ACNielsen (Philippines), Inc., Human Resources Department
15th Floor, Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City
Tel. No. 727-3701 to 20 / Fax No. 726-1416
or e-mail to: faye.bonoan@acnielsen.com.ph

People > Innovation > Insight

ACNielsen

Are you brimming with creative, fresh and innovative ideas? Do you crave for constant challenges?

Then **WE** need **YOU!**

WISHCRAFT™ (Creative Affairs Team, Inc.)
is looking for a **Live Events / Promo Writer** *who will join the pool of think-tanks in the ever-growing Events industry. Send us your resume with picture at* **dondonsa@gmail.com.** *Marketing, Advertising or Com Arts graduate is an advantage.*

Ink-go 잉크지오 **Hansol**

is in need of

Sales Executives

- 21- 40 yrs old
- College graduate
- Fluent in English
- Honest, aggressive & hardworking

Screening of documents (Bio-data, NBI clearance) can be sent thru fax no.898-2610

Look for ***Mr. Kwon*** *(ink-go@hanmail.net)*
Juang Int'l Corp. Tel no. 899-1229
2F 5368 Sunlink Bldg. Gen. Luna St., Makati City
(near P. Burgos and Kalayaan Sts.)

PIXELEYES MULTIMEDIA

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!
FULL-TIME ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

- Graduate of B.S Accountancy
- With good analytical skills
- Knowledge in Quickbooks is an advantage
- Good bookkeeping skills
- Can communicate in both oral and written English

For interested applicants, please email your resume with picture at **dondonsa@gmail.com**

Send your resumé instantly. JOB Market www.jobmarketonline.com

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NATIONAL CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH
Nueve de Pebrero St., Mandaluyong City
Tel No. 531-9001

NOTICE OF VACANCIES

POSITION	SALARY GRADE	ITEM NUMBER	QUALIFICATIONS
NURSE V	20	OSEC-DOHB-NURS5-5-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS5-6-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS5-7-1998	- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - 2 years of relevant experience - 8 hours of relevant training - RA 1080
NURSE III	16	OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-193-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-194-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-195-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-215-1998 OSEC-DOHB-NURS3-226-1998	- Bachelor of Science in Nursing - 1 year of relevant experience - 4 hours of relevant training - RA 1080
MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST II	15	OSEC-DOHB-MDTK2-90-1998	- Bachelors Degree in Medical Technology or Bachelor of Science in Public Health - 1 year of relevant experience - 4 hours of relevant training - RA 108
MEDICAL SPECIALIST III	23	OSEC-DOHB-MDSP3-142-1998 OSEC-DOHB-MDSP3-152-1998	- Doctor of Medicine - 2 years of relevant experience - 8 hours of relevant training, - RA 1080

(Sgd.) BERNARDINO A. VICENTE, MD, FPPA, MHA, CESO IV
Medical Center Chief II

Be part of a crack team doing cutting-edge web applications. **Dig.It.All Solutions**, a small upbeat company, is in need of the following:

Web Designer (Job Code: WBD)
- Creative, with a good eye for visual design
- Deep knowledge of HTML/XHTML and CSS, and web graphics and graphic tools
- Knowledge of JavaScript and PHP is a plus

Web Programmer (Job Code: PRG)
- Up to one year experience doing programming in a web environment, particularly in PHP, HTML/XHTML, Javascript and CSS
- Loves to solve puzzles and problems
- Training in computer science or related courses or equivalent experience
- Experience with ASP, Java, XML and databases is a plus

Asst. Project Manager (Job Code: APM)
- Excellent organizing and leadership skills
- Can write good technical documentation, reports, proposals and presentations
- Believes in continuous improvement and learning
- Understands the internet and web
- Programming experience and knowledge of PMBOK/AGILE techniques are pluses

The ideal candidates will also possess the ability to think both logically and creatively. If accepted, you will work with a young team tackling both mundane and extraordinary challenges. Email resumes with the correct Job Code in the subject line to:

we.want.in@gmail.com

Send hardcopies with the correct Job Code on the envelope to: We Want In, PO Box 100 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, 5th Floor SM Megamall, Bldg B., Mandaluyong City.

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bighead

This urgent notice heads to those who want to penetrate the radically competitive world of advertising.

> SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR for Creative Dept / ADOBE ILLUSTRATOR EXPERT

Our team is specifically in need of a real "techie" equipped with 3 things; an aptitude for Mac OS network systems modification, administration and maintenance, extremely well-versed with Abode Illustrator and lineart creation and can endure a fast-paced work environment (not to mention, the feistiness of the staffs).

> ADMIN/FINANCE OFFICER

The position is open for those who have background in financial and administrative matters. Responsibilities include: overseeing basic accountancy, monitoring staff budgets and personnel management and enhancement. Since the position includes monetary figures, work experience is required. We don't want them to be disfigured do we?

> ART DIRECTOR

If you're an experienced Graphic Artist, if you think now is the time for you to take your career to greater heights, then you're the one that we're looking for. To boot, you just have to be a Team Player, someone who can completely and independently handle assigned accounts and project and capable of real-time creative output.

> ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE / OFFICER

If you can do account servicing or can perform marketing related work, this job is for you. More than just being an agency-client liaison, you've got to be obsessed with meeting and beating deadlines, aggressive and result driven.

> TECHNICAL COPYWRITER / PROOFREADER

If you can find an errror in this sentence, then you're the man for this job. You must be a natural born "faultfinder", who has skills in know-how of proofreading and needless to say, impeccable grammar.

Email your comprehensive resumes to apply_bighead@yahoo.com. Indicate desired position as subject. Competitive compensation packages await qualified applicants... rookies need not apply

---

Qinteraction
Quality Interaction

TECHNICAL HELP DESK AGENT

Please e-mail, hand-carry or send applications to :

Qinteraction Philippines Inc.
Human Resources Department
8th Floor, BPI Buendia Center
Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue
Makati City, Philippines 1200
E-mail Address:
HR@Qinteraction.com
Web Address:
http://www.qinteraction.com

Alta Resources

Our client, a premier sales and customer service outsourcer for some of the world's most successful brands, is in need of Technical Help desk Agents.

The Technical Help Desk Agent's role is to ensure proper computer operation so that end users can accomplish business tasks.

Successful candidates should possess at least 3 years of relevant application support experience with main stream software applications such as Windows, MS Office, Peoplesoft CRM, Vantive, Interactive Intelligence CIC, Active Directory, Citrix, TN3270 Software, Internet and others.

He must have the ability to communicate effectively and comfortably in American English. Ability to present ideas in user –friendly language to non-technical staff and end users is also important.

Previous call center experience is an advantage but not required.

Your Call Center Partner for Growth and Profitability.

ISO 9001:2000 TUV The Complete Guide To Outsourcing Your Call Center

---

Experienced FLORIST
(opportunity to work abroad)

Requirements:
1. Minimum 3 years experience in flower arrangements
2. Age 33 years & below
3. Good moral character
4. Barangay & NBI Clearance
5. Valid Passport
6. Valid Driving License

Kindly send your resumé together with non returnable passport size photo and a copy of passport to:

Ms. Belen Bactad
G/Flr. Madison Bldg., 904 Pasay Road
Makati City, Philippines
Tel.: 893-9807/814-0847

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

JOB CAPTAIN/ CAD OPERATOR

- BS Architecture graduate
- At least 2 yrs. exp. as CAD Operator
- Proficient in CAD & knows 3D

Bring resume & sample of works
Pls. Apply at 2/F FSA Corporate Plaza 132
San Francisco St., Mandaluyong City
Tel. : 746-3191 Look for Jenny

JOB OPENING

Public service program **"Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo"** is urgently in need of a

REPORTER / WRITER

We are looking for qualified applicants who are:
- Female
- Not more than 30 years old
- Preferably Mass Communications graduates
- Good research and investigative work
- Have sympathy for the poor and oppressed

Please submit comprehensive resumé with picture at:

Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo
5th Flr. City State Center Bldg., 709 Shaw Blvd. Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 633-91-30 / 637-39-65

Look for Alin Ferrer

Be an Immigrant of *Canada*

the Experts are giving **FREE** information Seminar, Assessment and proper Job Classification for the following Qualified Professions:

Doctors, Lawyers, Teachers, Police Officer, IT Professional, Engineers, Agriculturists, Pharmacists, Dentists, Accountants & Auditors, Bookkeepers, Physical Therapists, Respiratory Therapist, Nurses, Medical Technologists, X-Ray Technicians, Biological Technologists, Chemists, Managers, Air Pilots, Seaman, Actors, Comedians, Editors and Writers, Foresters, Firefighters, Secretaries, Administrative Officers, Executive Assistants, Urban and Land Use Planners, Statisticians, Librarians, Film and Video Camera Operators.. among others...

...you got to be expertly prepared.

Canadian Immigration Experts, Inc.

1801 Johlbee Plaza, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos.: 634-4214 / 631-2648 Tel/Fax: 631-9471
e-mail: inquiry@migrate2canada.com
Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9AM to 6PM Saturday at 9AM to 2PM
Provincial Seminar: October 8, 2005 (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM)
City Travel Hotel, 2nd Floor Araucaria Hall, Baguio City
www.migrate2canada.com

MIGRATE TO

NEW ZEALAND

NZ Immigration Specialist coming to the Philippines
Call now to book your appointment for a one-on-one assessment/ consultation • Limited slots available on following dates:

Manila	Sept. 27 to Oct. 01	(02) 635-2864/910-0386
Naga/Legaspi	Oct. 02 to Oct. 03	(0917)627-9801/ (054)473-1010
Cebu	Oct. 07-Oct. 10	(032)253-2049/253-2258

Or e-mail your detailed resume (if married, include spouse) for a free pre-assessment to gnz.phil@gmail.com

- No gimmicks: just straight forward assessment
- Low consultation fees
- Solid track record of about 1,000 successful applicants

If you are a university graduate, between 26-47 years old, with work experience, why wait?

VENUE IN MANILA : Unit 603 Manila Luxury Condominium, Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

ACT NOW!

URBANSPA

WE PUT THE aaahh IN SPA

Has an opening for a

SALES & MARKETING ASSISTANT

She will be primarily responsible for:

Handling client inquiries, booking treatments and initiating creative marketing activities, tie-ups and sponsorships.

Qualifications:

College graduate from a reputable school
Single with at least 1 year work experience
Willing to work on weekends and holidays
Articulate and has good communication skills
With pleasing personality and excellent customer relation skills

Please send your resumé with recent 2x2 picture to
The Human Resource Department
Level 5 Wellness Zone Shangri-La Plaza Mall Mandaluyong City
email urban_spa@yahoo.com or fax 687-61-96
visit www.urbanspaphil.com

John Monsef & Associates
Canadian Immigration Consultants
CSIC No. M041779 www.johnmonsef.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTREPRENEURS/BUSINESSME INVESTORS, SKILLED WORKERS, PROFESSIONALS IN CANADA!

If you are a *University Graduate* with at least *three years work experience*, you may attend our FREE daily orientation and immediate assessment of your qualification.

Change your life for the Better. Make the first Move!

Bring your **UPDATED RESUME** with **JOB DESCRIPTION** @ Unit 202 Executive Bldg., Center, Gil Puyat Ave., cor Makati Ave.,Makati City 1212; Tel. Nos. 8961132, 8964412, 8966448, 8968403, 8964001, 8966865; Email: **jmonsef@ideal-access.ph**
Mon – Fri 8:00AM – 7:00PM Sat 8:00AM – 12NN

***FOR LOCAL HIRING:* Female Marketing Associates**

We are a Canadian-Based Immigration Consultancy Firm, not a Recruitment Agency.

WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING BY A GARMENT EXPORTER

A. JUNIOR MERCHANDISER
At least one year experience in garment manufacturing (export)
Computer literate

B. PATTERN MAKER
At least two years experience
Possess strong knowledge in children's & ladies wear

C. INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER
At least 3 years experience in garments mftg. company
Computer literate
Knowledge in preparation of operations breakdown and line balancing

D. SAMPLE MAKER
At least one year experience in children's wear
Can operate special machines and possess knowledge in quality assurance

Send resumé with 2x2 photo at 431 F. Legaspi St., Maybunga, Pasig City or fax to 643-7720 & 642-0230

VALUE ADDED PRODUCTION MANAGER

An International Seafood Company is looking for a motivated person to join our new Value Added seafood processing project in Roxas City, Capiz.

The person must possess the following:
- Food Science Degree
- Previous experience in Value Added Food Production/RD
- MUST be a hands on worker, this is not an office position
- HACCP certified with thorough food safety, GMP and sanitation knowledge
- Thorough knowledge of process control
- Strong personal management skills
- Computer Literate

In addition to overseeing the VA production, basic R/D work will also be part of these positions responsibilities.

This position will require brief training in Indonesia so a valid passport is necessary.

Send full resumé with picture to:

PHILLIPS SEAFOOD PHILS. CORP.
Brgy. Banica, Roxas City, Capiz 5800

We are a Manufacturing Company belonging to the Top 1000 Corporations.

WANTED

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

- Male not more than 30 years old
- College Graduate in Business or Engineering
- With good scholastic record
- Must have good personality
- Must be honest, trustworthy & diligent
- Must be willing to do fieldwork

We offer basic salary plus incentive commission.

Please send resumé, transcript of records & passport size photo to:

P.O. Box No. 12940, Ortigas Center Post Office, Pasig City

JOB Market **Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.**

J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and installation of computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) systems, project management systems (PMS), engineering process control systems (ES) and development of applications software related with ORACLE DB, announces the recruitment of

10 SYSTEMS ANALYSTS/ SENIOR PROGRAMMERS

to expand its technical base utilizing programming languages such as JAVA, VISUAL BASIC, C+ +.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Male or female, 27 -30 years old
- Graduates of Business, Engineering and computer courses with impressive scholastic records
- With at least 5 years of professional experience in programming and full development lifecycle
- Excellent analytical and problem-solving skills
- Excellent communication and inter-personal skills
- Task and improvement oriented, a leader and a team player and could work under extreme pressure, local and overseas
- Has strong desire to learn and master the Japanese Language (Nihongo)

To qualified candidates, we offer you long-term employment and professional growth in the global systems engineering field, attractive compensation and fringe benefits package, as well as overseas assignment opportunities.

Interested applicants may send their curriculum vitae with detailed work experience and recent 2" x 2" photo to:

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC.
P. O. Box 132
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Tel. No. (632) 772 3408/12 or E-mail to: hrd@jpi.com.ph

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC. is a member of the JGC Group of Japan - one of the world's largest engineering design, procurement and construction companies.
URL: **www.jpi.com.ph**

ATTENTION NURSES!!!

Getting the acceptable CGFNS score is only one step. You need an English proficiency score for the issuance of your CGFNS certificate.

Why TOEIC is the happy choice?

✓ easy to register ✓ daily testing ✓ fast score turnaround ✓ only $35

TEST OF ENGLISH FOR INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATION

HA Cervantes Knowledge Systems, Inc.
The Pioneer Official TOEIC Representative in the Philippines; also a test provider for Test of Spoken English (TSE) and Praxis –all ETS products.

We administer TOEIC anywhere in the Philippines upon request.

Branch Offices/Test Centers Nationwide

PASIG: AB Sandoval Bldg. Oranbo Drive corner Shaw Blvd. Pasig City. Tel. Nos. 638-1243, 633-7734 Fax No. 910-1091

LOS BAÑOS BRANCH: Batong Malake, National Highway, Los Baños Laguna (near Olivarez Plaza) Tel. No. (049) 827-2818

CEBU BRANCH: 3rd flr. Rm. 301 Manros Plaza, General Maxilom Ave. Cebu City. Tel. No. (032) 412-6556

PASAY BRANCH: 3rd flr. THA Bldg., 2116 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Corner Taft Avenue., Pasay City. Tel. Nos. 832-9112; 832-9116

LA UNION BRANCH: 3rd flr. Florentino Bldg. General Luna st. City of San Fernando La Union Tel. No. (072) 888-3377

Visit Our Site @ www. toeic.com.ph

PUREFOODS HORMEL

The Purefoods Hormel Company, Inc.

NEEDS

TRUCKERS

To handle its heavy sales volume this Christmas Season. The units will be dispatched from Purefoods-Hormel's Marikina Plant and Cavite Plant for deliveries to Greater Manila Area (GMA) and Luzon Provincial Areas (LPA).

Other Relevant Information:

Truck Type : AUV's/Trucks (1.0-4.0 tons capacity)
Body Type : Refrigerated/Insulated/Closed Vans
Contract Period : October 01, 2005 to December 31, 2005

For particulars, please call or visit:

MR. ERNESTO S. GAÑA

At the following address and telephone numbers:

PUREFOODS HORMEL COMPANY, INC.
Barrio San Roque, Marikina City
Telephone Nos. 645-3251 to 55
Local 256, 257, 258 and 340
Fax numbers 645-4535 and 646-9556

ESCA INCORPORATED

ENGINEERS • CONSULTANTS • PROJECT MANAGERS

Set your CAREER on track!

JOIN US!

Be a WORLD CLASS Engineer!
Be an ESCA Engineer!

Our company is an ISO 9001:2000 Certified Engineering Design Consultancy and Construction Management firm. For more than 23 years, ESCA has developed and expanded its services to meet the increasing demand of a wide range of clientele here and abroad.

Currently, we are in search for TOP CALIBER and PROACTIVE individuals to fill in the following positions:

STRUCTURAL DESIGN ENGINEERS
- Registered Civil Engineer, not more than 35 years old
- Knowledgeable in STAAD Pro, ETABS and other engineering design softwares
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Experience in the following areas an advantage
  - Industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants refineries
  - Precast concrete detailing
- Can work with minimum supervision

CIVIL WORKS DESIGNERS
- Registered Civil Engineer, not more than 35 years old
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Knowledgeable in AutoCAD and Land Development Desktop
- Previous experience on US projects an advantage
- Can work with minimum supervision

PROJECT ENGINEERS
- Registered Civil Engineer with at least 3 to 5 years of experience in Project Construction and Management
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

X-STEEL DETAILERS
- BS Architecture or any engineering course graduate
- Experience in industrial facilities such as power plants, cement plants refineries an advantage
- Can produce structural steel fabrication outputs
- Knowledgeable in X-Steel software
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

CADD OPERATORS
- BS Architecture or any engineering course graduate
- Not more than 35 years old
- Proficient in the use of AutoCAD, Architectural Desktop, 3D Studio or any other engineering\architectural software
- With at least 2 years relevant experience
- Experience on precast concrete detailing an advantage

PROGRAMMERS
- BS Computer Science or equivalent
- Not more than 28 years old
- Proficient in C++, Perl, ASP, PHP, VB and .NET scripting languages
- Can work with minimum supervision

Other Positions:

ARCHITECTS \ MECHANICAL \ ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
- Registered Professional
- With at least 3 years relevant experience
- Excellent oral and communication skills
- Knowledge in computer software applications
- Willing to be assigned anywhere

Qualified applicants may apply personally or send their updated resumé with application letter to:

The Human Resources Department
3rd Floor ATC Centre, 148 Katipunan Ave.,
St. Ignatius Village, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 4371218-19\9139920\9139879
hrd@escaengineers.com

Previous applicants need not apply.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
Center for Health Development No. 3
DR. PAULINO J. GARCIA MEMORIAL RESEARCH AND MEDICAL CENTER
Cabanatuan City

ANNOUNCEMENT

As of September 15, 2005 Dr. Paulino J. Garcia Memorial Research and Medical Center, a 400 bed capacity teaching and training hospital, located at Mabini Street, Cabanatuan City is in need of the following doctors, (Medical Officer III).

Department	No. of doctors needed
1. Surgery	6
2. Medicine	2
3. Anesthesia	2
4. Ophthalmology	2
5. Orthopedics	2
6. Pediatrics	1

Interested applicants may contract any of the following:

1. **Dr. Allan J. Sanchez**
   OIC-Chief of Professional Services
   Tel. Nos. (044) 463-1607; 0917-7906388
2. **Mr. Mario P. Abergas**
   Administrative Officer V
   Tel. Nos. (044) 600-0927/0928 - loc. 146
3. **Mrs. Evangeline P. Ruanto**
   Chief Administrative Officer
   Tel. Nos. (044) 463-8286; 0917-8037010

You may also fax your curriculum vitae at telefax no. (044) 463-9937, 463-1607 and 463-8286.

(Sgd.) **HUBERTO F. LAPUZ, MD, MHA, FICS, FPCHA**
Officer-In-Charge

(PDI - Sept. 24 & 25, 2005)

Major European Footwear Importer

Seeking for: **Quality Assurance Manager**

- Male/Female
- 32-45 years old
- At least 10 years technical experience in Footwear Industry with
- At least 5 years experience in the field of quality control
- Willing to move to China

Attractive compensation package is being offered
Send your full resumé and expected salary to:

NESTOR MANILA TRADING
5th flr. Rm. 5F CYPRESS GARDENS
112 V.A. RUFINO St., LEGASPI VILLAGE
MAKATI CITY
or Email to: <info@fareastfootwear.com>

WANTED

HR MANAGER - not more than 35 years old, Graduate of BS Psychology, Behavioral Science, Industrial Engineering or any related Course; 3 years extensive exp. in HR functions such as recruitment, training, labor relations, benefits & compensation; must be people oriented with strong sense of responsibility; must be computer literate.

FIELD SUPERVISORS - M/F, not more than 30 years old; graduate of any 4 year course; at least 1 year supervisory experience; honest; knowledge in driving an advantage.

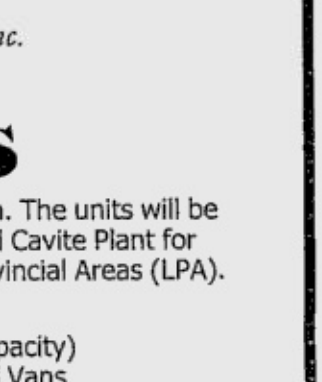
Apply at Baliwag Lechon Manok, Inc.
30 Wiedom St., Carmel II Proj. 6, Q.C.
Tel. No. 929-1452

IMPERIAL CONSULTING — AMA The Global Advantage — American Management Association — HCC Human Capital Club

Measuring ROI in Training

Executive Forum

11 October 2005, Tuesday
(9:00 – 11:30 AM)
Pasay B, 3/F Makati Shangri-la Hotel



"Our plans miscarry because they have no aim. When a man does not know what harbor he is making for, no wind is the right wind." Seneca (4 B.C.—A.D. 65)

With companies around the globe spending tens of billions of dollars each year on employee training, the question is whether there is a positive return on this massive investment. Can we measure return on investment (ROI) in monetary terms? Can we demonstrate that training helps the company achieve its business goals? Or do we spend this money on blind faith or because it "is what companies do?"

An effective training organization bases its evaluation on sound learning theory to maximize returns from the learning experience for both participants and companies. Most training programs try to focus on providing information, but many overwhelm the participant with such information.

What we really want is not necessarily for learners to retain large volumes of information, but to apply that they have learned to their work to make a positive difference in individual, group, or corporate business results.

What You Will Cover

- The learning theory that underpins AMA's approach to evaluation
- A model "learning contract" that helps organizations and their employees plan learning initiatives that are directly tied to business goals
- The methods AMA uses to evaluate learning initiatives at each of the four levels of the Kirkpatrick model
- The approach of AMA to learning evaluation

Fee: PHP 990/person

For further information, call Jasmin Runez at telephone numbers 8451324 or 7596680 or e-mail at jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph

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Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax: 631-96-40
Direct Line 633-93-42
Trunk Line 632-13-61 locals 2221/2007
E-Mail Address jpluz@deped.gov.ph
Website: http://www.deped.gov.ph

Invitation for Bids

Date : September 15, 2005
Loan No. : PH-P200
IFB No. : SEDIP-2005-EQPT-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepED) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of the Second Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contracts for **Supply and Delivery of School Equipment to Selected Secondary Schools** in the Philippines.
2. The DepED through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supply and Delivery of School Equipment following the schedules below.

Equipment Package	Issuance of Bidding Documents	Bid Opening
A. Science Equipment	September 19, 2005	November 8, 2005
B. Math and Physics Equipment	October 3, 2005	December 9, 2005
C. Industrial Arts and Home Economics Equipment	October 3, 2005	December 9, 2005

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete items comprising a lot. A bidder may opt to submit bids for one (1) or more lots.
4. For the purpose of this bid, eligible bidders shall be those who have the experience in selling, supply, delivery, and distribution of school equipment to remote areas.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain and inspect the bidding documents from the Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Flr., Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Tel. No. (632) 636-6543 or 632-1361 local 2019. Information is also available at **http://www.deped.gov.ph, http://www.procurementservice.org or http://www.sedip.ph.**
6. Complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the dates indicated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the DepED cashier of a non-refundable fee of Php2,000.00 each per equipment package.
7. All bids shall be submitted together with the required bid security of not less than 2% of the total bid amount on the date indicated in paragraph 2 not later than 10:00 a.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal 1 Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.
8. A pre-bid conference for the 3 equipment packages shall be held at the address stated in paragraph 7 on **October 21, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.**
9. The DepED BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
Vice-Chairperson, BAC

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

NEECO II Area 2

NUEVA ECIJA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2
Maharlika Highway, Diversion, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
Tel./Fax : 044-488-3068

September 19, 2005

The **Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) – Area 2** is inviting you to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor and materials for the following:

LOCATION	XFORMER	1 PHASE	OS(KM)	UB(KM)
Project – 5				
1. Patalac, Cab. City	1-15	0.330	1.465	0.200
2. Magsalisi, Jaen	1-25	1.900	0.115	0.926
3. San Anton, San Leonardo	1-15	0.085	0.330	0.045
4. Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio	1-15	0.490	0.290	0.280
Project 6				
1. Macabaklay, Bongabon	1-25	0.145	0.570	0.070
2. Pesa, Bongabon	1-25	0.470	0.440	0.315
3. Calabasa, Gabaldon	1-15		1.360	
4. San Juan, Laur	1-15	0.240	0.250	0.190
Project 7				
1. Ganaderia, Palayan City	1-25	0.390	0.415	0.280
2. Inanama, Llanera			0.405	0.210
3. Picaleon, Gen Natividad	1-15	0.120	0.745	0.210
4. Talabutab Norte, Ntvdad	1-15	0.050	0.620	
Project 8				
1. Poblacion West I, Rizal	1-15	0.205	0.390	0.050
2. Poblacion West II, Rizal	1-15	0.585	0.550	0.475
3. Estrella, Rizal	1-10	0.365	0.100	0.070
4. Macapsing, Rizal	1-25	0.220	0.965	0.110

Deadline for the submission of company profile will be simultaneous with the Pre-bid Conference on OCTOBER 5, 2005 at exactly 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room of NEECO II – Area 2. Bidding proper will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference. Registration fee is P1,500.00.

NEECO II Area-2 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to NEECO II Area-2.

Ms. JUANITA G. IGNACIO
PBAC Chairman
Cell No. 09209060894
Noted by:

Mr. RAMON M. DE VERA
OIC - General Manager

PNOC

PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY PRIVATIZATION OF PNOC-SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT CORPORATION

The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has authorized the privatization of PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC), a company engaged in the business of shipping, tankering, lighterage, barging, towing and transport/shipment of goods, chattels, petroleum and other products, marine and maritime industry in general.

PSTC is now inviting prospective Financial Advisors to advise, guide and assist in the design, planning, preparation and implementation of the program for the privatization of PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation.

Prospective financial advisors who meet all of the following criteria may secure application forms for pre-qualification:

- has Philippine and Asian experience as financial advisor to governments on privatizations;
- has knowledge and experience in Asian and Philippine shipping and maritime sector;
- if a foreign firm, with office in the Philippines or within Asia and willing to deploy a dedicated team of shipping/maritime experts in the country;

Qualified parties may secure pre-qualification forms starting on September 26, 2005 during regular office hours from PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Committee Secretariat at the 1st Floor, Building 6 Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila. Deadline for submission of accomplished forms to the same office will be on **October 24, 2005** at 12:00 noon.

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Celia R. Tagaro (PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation Privatization Secretariat) at No. (632)840-14-42 and Tel./Fax No. (632)840-1441.

The PNOC-Shipping and Transport Corporation (PSTC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process or to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

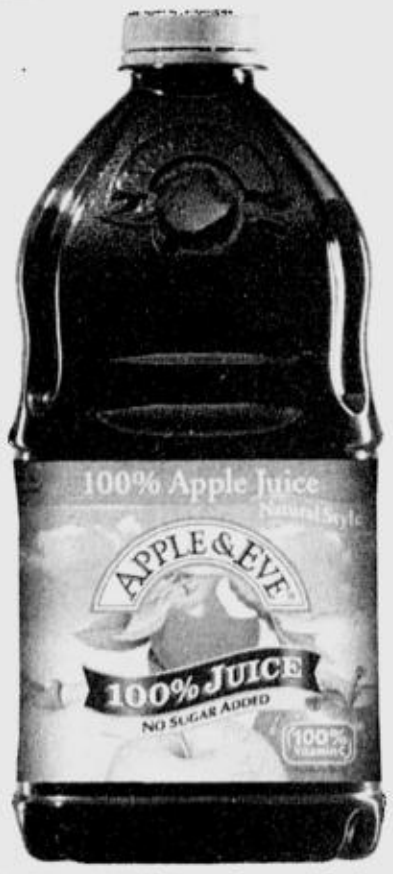
(Sgd.) **EDGARDO M. DEL FONSO**
Director, PNOC and
Chairman, PNOC-Shipping and
Transport Corporation
Privatization Committee

(PDI-Sept 25 2005)

Fundamental of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers seminar

IMPERIAL CONSULTING, INC. IN PARTNERSHIP with American Management Association and the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines brings you Fundamentals of Finance and Accounting for Non-Financial Managers on Oct. 3-4. This seminar offers exactly what you need to protect your career and build your future with your organization. Gain greater confidence with a working knowledge of the numbers end of business, cultivate proactive working relationships with finance professionals and enhance your value to the organization; expand your professional expertise and your career opportunities, understand the business dynamics of your money and take initiatives that meet your short and long term goals. Training investment is P16,500 for AMA Members and P18,150 for Non-Members. For more information, call 8451324 or 7596680 or email to jrunez@imperialconsulting.com.ph or visit our website at www.imperialconsulting.com.ph

APPLE & EVE 100% NATURAL STYLE APPLE JUICE FROM THE US



Apple & Eve 100% Pure Natural Style Apple Juice is made with fresh whole apples. Upon pressing the apples, they leave tiny, nutritious apple particles in the mix. This way you get all the pectin, potassium and other minerals found in whole apples. This makes the product healthier than regular apple juice and also gives extra tartness to its flavor. Available in leading supermarkets nationwide. For more information, please contact info@suncoastbrands.com.

ASKMENOW, INC., a wholly owned subsidiary of ASKMENOW, INC. in the U.S., is in need of a highly-qualified and competent individuals to join our team as:

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- LIVED, STUDIED and/or WORKED in the U.S.
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- Exceptionally internet savvy
- With superior command of the English language.
- Analytical and methodical worker
- Resourceful, creative and innovative problem solver
- Enthusiastic, curious, results-driven and persistent
- College graduate
- Willing to work shifts (night shifts included)

ONLY RESUMES OF THOSE WHO LIVED, STUDIED and/or WORKED in the U.S. will be considered.

ALSO NEEDED : *Internet Researchers, Transcribers, Team Leaders*

Email resumes to : resumes-01@askmenow.com

ORACLE/SQL SERVER DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR (DBA)

The ideal candidate will design, implement and maintain large, high-volume, high-availability databases.

QUALIFICATIONS

- 5-year experience in Database Administration (SQL Server and/or Oracle), 3-years of which must be in large, high-volume databases maintenance.
- 3-year experience in Data Modeling
- Data migration management
- Leadership qualities, highly motivated, result-oriented, creative and resourceful
- Good command of written and verbal English

J2ME UI DEVELOPER (JD1)

The ideal candidate will design, develop and maintain a J2ME interface for cellular phone Application

JAVA SERVER DEVELOPER (JD2)

The ideal candidate will create and maintain a Java Enterprise front-end server solution that will communicate with the cellular phone application and will interface with other servers via **XML/SOAP.**

QUALIFICATIONS

- Must have 5 years IT experience, specifically in the following:
  - Applications development for real time systems
  - Middleware, socket programming, OOP and J2ME architecture experience is a strong plus.
  - Multi-tiered systems design
  - XML, CVS, CMVC, web services using JMS or HTTP transport experience is preferred.
  - Expert in Java, swing and threading
- With hands-on proficiency in Visual C++ 6.0, Microsoft.NET 2003, MS SQL Server or Oracle
- Good command of written and verbal English

Priority will be given to candidates with past experience developing cell phone applications, games or engines.

Email resumes to : resumes-02@askmenow.com

EXCELLENT compensation package plus career advancement and travel opportunities await the BEST candidates!

MSH LEAD

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND BID

Local Enhancement and Development (LEAD) for Health Project

Management Sciences for Health, Inc. (MSH) is a contractor funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) tasked to implement the LEAD for Health Project. The LEAD for Health project is a three year project that aims to strengthen local government provision and management of family planning and selected health services (TB, HIV-AIDS and Vitamin A supplementation) and improve the policies and financing for these services. The project will seek to improve the capacity of the local government units (LGUs) in the Philippines, particularly in cities and municipalities, to meet the needs of their constituents, especially the poor, for family planning, TB and other selected health services. The project will accomplish these goals by (a) strengthening the financial, managerial and technical capacity of LGUs to deliver FP, TB and other selected health services, and developing local level support to deliver these services; and (b) improving the policy and legislative framework at both the national and local levels to finance and support these programs. Provision of technical assistance will help the LGUs develop commitment to and ownership of the project.

MSH invites local and international organizations to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the provision of performance audits by independently verifying the achievement of benchmarks and the corresponding deliverables/performance targets of LGUs being assisted by the LEAD Project. Interested organizations must provide information such as company profile, brochure, description/experience of similar assignments, description of geographic networks within the country (detailing regional, provincial and/or municipal experiences), availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc. EOIs must be in writing and delivered to the address indicated below or via email no later than September 30, 2005.

Performance-Based Contracts (PBC) Unit
Suite 1101 Ma. Natividad Building
470 T.M. Kalaw corner Cortada Streets, Ermita, Manila
Tel. No. (02) 526-3877
Fax. No. (02) 521-0227
Email: pbcmanager@lead.org.ph

All EOIs shall be evaluated by MSH and only qualified organizations shall be invited to submit a proposal as described in the "Request for Proposals" that will be issued on a later date.

MSH reserves the right to reject any or all Application for Pre-qualification, waive any required formality therein, and accept the bid and award the subcontract to the most advantageous offer to the project. MSH assumes no responsibility to compensate or indemnify the bidder for any expense or loss that may be incurred for the preparation of the bids, nor does it guarantee an award will be made.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission

2nd Floor MWSS Engineering Building,
Katipunan Road Balara, Quezon City
Telefax Nos. 926-5233; 926-5234

JOB OPENING

HORTICULTURIST – GRADUATE OF BS AGRICULTURE MAJOR IN HORTICULTURE AND OTHER RELATED COURSES WITH AT LEAST TWO YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE IN URBAN LANDSCAPING AND MAINTENANCE AND MANGROVE REFORESTATION.

ACCOUNTANT III (SG-18) – CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT, AT LEAST TWO YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE PREFERABLY IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

LEGAL OFFICER – GRADUATE OF BACHELOR OF LAWS WITH TWO YEARS RELEVANT EXPERIENCE IN THE PREPARATION OF CONTRACTS AND GOVERNMENT BIDDING PROCEDURES. BAR PASSER

Interested applicants must submit their application until October 3, 2005 together with transcript of records, diploma or certificate of graduation to the Administrative Division, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), 2nd floor MWSS Engineering Building, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

National Steel Corporation

FOR SALE/LEASE

GENERAL DESCRIPTION		AREA (SQM)
IA. BAGUIO GUESTHOUSE NO. 1	SALE	LA-340, FA-190
IB. BAGUIO GUESTHOUSE NO. 2 Monterazzas Village, Itogon Benguet		LA-310, FA-276
II. BOHOL LOT (Agricultural/Industrial) Brgy. Malayo, Cortes, Bohol	SALE	206,622
III. PASIG LOT (Industrial) Ellsco Road, Brgy. Kalawaan, Pasig City	LEASE	118,132

NOTES:

1. Interested parties may inquire at the Office of the Liquidator at Tel. No. 752-4495 to 98 c/o Mr. Jess Garcia, Mr. Larry de Lara, or Ms. Ara Agliam.
2. Deadline for submission of offer is on October 19, 2005 at 2PM.
3. The NSC Liquidator reserves the right to reject any or all proposals.

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

FERTILITY REGIONAL CONGRESS

The PSREI Board of Directors (seated from left) Drs. Lyra Ruth Clemente-Chua, VP; Santiago A. del Rosario, president; and Eileen M. Manalo, Secretary. Standing from left are Drs. Virgilio M. Novero Jr., PRO; Joan Tan-Garcia, treasurer; Antonia Habana, board member; and Enrico Gil C. Obiepias, auditor.

NFA Sultan Kudarat reports 100% compliance to rice retailing rules

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY IN Isulan, Sultan Kudarat has deployed market monitoring teams to conduct an extensive monitoring of the availability of affordable NFA rice in public markets throughout the province. NFA Sultan Kudarat provincial manager Jose Danilo Nieves led the monitoring teams that recently conducted spot inspections at the Isulan, Tacurong, Esperanza and Lambayong public markets. The NFA Sultan Kudarat also has accredited rice outlets in Isulan, Bagumbayan, Esperanza, Tacurong, Lambayong, Pres. Quirino, Columbio and Lutayan. Nieves noted that all rice retailers in the markets visited strictly comply with NFA rice trading rules and regulations such as the display of NFA signboard, price tag, control number and white rice boxes filled with sufficient supply of the staple. The teams also observed that NFA rice is being sold at the prescribed prices of P16 and P18 per kilogram. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send their inquiries via the Text NFA Program through mobile number 0917-6210927.

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Day before publication

Lilia Teodora Abaya Cruz

April 1, 1953 – September 22, 2005

God's beloved daughter, ***LILIA****, has peacefully joined her Creator in Paradise.*

Please join her husband, **Councilor Rene Cruz**, and children, **Alyssa Renee**, **Michael Rene** and **Von Vincent Rene**, in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, Batangas City

A memorial mass will be held at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 to be followed by the interment at Eternal Memorial Gardens, Brgy. Balagtas, Batangas City.

ARCHITECT TOMAS Q. ARGUELLES

Now peacefully rest in the Grace and Goodness of our Lord on September 23, 2005 at the age of 80.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Narra Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Parañaque City (inside Manila Memorial Park).

Cremation will be on Monday, September 26, 2005 at the Manila Memorial Park after the 10:00 A.M. Holy Mass. After cremation his ashes will be brought to Bel-Air Community Center, Gemini Room, Makati City.

Our Dearly Beloved

LIGAYA ISRAEL ORROS

Of Urdaneta, Pangasinan & San Fernando, La Union

peacefully joined her Creator on September 22, 2005 at the age of 67.

Her husband **Tuting**; son **James** & daughter-in-law **Jennie**; grandchildren **Jaq, Jaime & Jose**; brother **Dom** & sister-in-law **Ely Israel**; sister **Fe** and brother-in-law **Arturo Barias**; in-laws, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Sta. Rita de Cascia Parish, Philam Life Homes, Quezon City. Masses will be held everyday at 8:00 p.m.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at Himlayang Pilipino after the concelebrated Mass at 9:00 a.m.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS • DEATH ANNIVERSARY • REQUIEMS

DEATH NOTICE

RENIO M. RAMIREZ
Died on Sept. 17, 2005

His body lies at his residence at Jardin Leonila Subd., Maahas, Los Baños, Laguna.
Cremation will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2005.

" I have done my best in the race, I have run the full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the prize of victory..."
2Tim4:7-8

SERGIO "SERGE" LORENZO AYSON

(October 7, 1934 – September 22, 2005)

Founder and chairman of TROIKA COMMERCIAL and SLA INTERNATIONAL, has gone home to his loving FATHER and CREATOR, in the peace of our LORD on September 22, 2005 at the age of 70.

His beloved wife **YOLI BAUTISTA AYSON**

children
PAMELA
TRIXIE
SOPHIA "SNOWIE"

RAYMOND & MARIE
CHRIS & PILAR
VINCENT & ELLA

grandchildren
Ryon, Robby, Matt, Tim, Vinny, Shel and **Jayjay**

His brothers, sister, other relatives and friends request your prayers, and for you to join them in celebrating **SERGE**'s coming home to the LORD, his EVERLASTING JOY.

His body lies in state at the Aguinaldo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz-Sucat (inside Manila Memorial Park) Parañaque City. Daily Mass at 8:00 P.M.

On September 27, Tuesday, 8:00 A.M. viewing at St. James the Great Parish, Ayala Alabang Village. Funeral Mass will be at 1:00 P.M. Interment follows at the Heritage Memorial Park at C-5 Road, Taguig.

In lieu of flowers, the family of **SERGE** would like to request for donation to his favorite charity project:

ASIAN HOSPITAL CHARITIES INC.
or
ST. JAMES THE GREAT PARISH KST LIVELIHOOD PROJECT

Ramon Antillon Dimaculangan

Born on April 7, 1929
Died peacefully in Las Vegas, U.S.A.
On September 16, 2005

He is survived by his wife **Norma** and children: **Ramoncito & Marissa; Raul, Roy & Penne; Randy & Marie, Carmela, Carina & Chad; Celeste, Ronald & Ria; and Cecile;** grandchildren: **Joseph, Marc, Mico, Reena, Makee, Raffy, Mon-Mon, Mari & Patrick.**

His remains lie in state at the Capilla dela Virgen, Santuario De San Antonio, Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 28 at the Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.

SALUD CABALLERO ORATE

of Burdick Way, San Jose, California, USA

Peacefully joined her Creator on September 20, 2005 at the age of 83.

Her bereaved children **Elizabeth, Edgar, Philip, Christina, Adela, Dante, Grace, Robert** and **Florence**; sons-in-law and daughters-in-law; grandchildren and great grandchildren; her sisters **Angela (†), Lydia, Fe, Rufina, Josie, Aida**; niece, nephews and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul and to remember her always in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at Oakhill Memorial Park in San Jose, California.

Interment will be on Monday, September 26, 2005, in the USA.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16

In Loving Memory of

ARTEMIO ELIZARDE CLARIDAD SR.

of Sum-ag, Bacolod City

*who peacefully joined his **CREATOR** and his wife **LUTGUARDA** on 20 September 2005 at the age of 91.*

His children: **Teresita** and **Titus Villanueva Sr.**, **Rosario** married to **Sebastian Alegada** (deceased); **Gilda** married to **Emiliano Bayla** (deceased); **Heidi** and husband **Rodolfo Anuran**; **Artemio, Jr.** and wife **Jessie**; **Eduardo** and wife **Olga**; **Georgina**, **Ma. Cecilia**, and **Ana Victoria**; and sisters: **Anita** married to **Eutiquio Casiano** (both deceased) and Feliciana; grandchildren, great grandchildren, other relatives and friends request prayers for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Interment will be on the 1st of October 2005, Saturday, at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, San Bartolome, Quirino Highway, Quezon City, after the 9:00 am Mass at the Holy Cross Memorial Park Chapel.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

John 14:6

"When life's work is all completed, He will gently call you home. Oh, the rapture of that meeting! Oh, the joy to see you come."

PILAR S. DIZON

(Widow of the late **Justice Arsenio P. Dizon**)

Peacefully joined our Lord on September 3, 2005.

We, her family, who felt her love the most, wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all of you who offered masses and prayers, sent flowers and letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, and expressed in countless ways your love, concern, and support during our time of bereavement.

Marissa and **Justice Martin Villarama, Jr.**
Issa and **Mark Cellona, Carlo**

Tita and **Noel Villaroman**
Monina and **Tonny Tassel, Carla**

Candido and **Janelle Dizon**
CJ and **Aldo**

Nonoy and **Icang Dizon**
Katrina, Marina and **Nonong**

Letty D. Fernando (†)
Joy and **Jojo Mangahas**
Marienne and **Kjell Okter**
Jun and **Monette Fernando**
Bobby

Mary Dizon (†)

CLASSIFIEDS

GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM

A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1474
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

Invitation for prequalification for and award of
Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC)

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (LBGI), a U.S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao-2 (GEM-2) Program is inviting interested and qualified Philippine firms to submit proposals for the conduct of topographic surveys / hydrographic surveys of civil works projects. The projects will be located primarily in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other conflict-affected areas of Mindanao, and will include various components such as ports and boat landings; water supply facilities; roads and bridges; irrigation, drainage and flood controls; and, general civil works categories. Individual construction contract costs will range in value from Php500,000 up to Php1.5M for community infrastructure projects and Php20M + for mid-scale infrastructure projects.

Interested firms will be prequalified for different categories based on their previous experience and expertise. For prequalification purposes, the works will be divided into the following categories based on the desired level of precision studies: (a) Topographic Survey / Hydrographic Surveys (Civil Works Projects) with HIGH complexity (contracts amounting to, or more than Php300,000); and (b) Topographic Survey / Hydrographic Surveys (Civil Works Projects) with LOW complexity (contracts amounting to less than Php300,000).

Proposals will be evaluated and ranked based on the offerors' ability to demonstrate in their submission the relevant: (a) Company Experience; (b) Competency of Technical Personnel; and (c) Equipment/Testing Laboratory Inventory. Based on the evaluated proposals, the top three firms for each category may be awarded Indefinite Quantity Contracts (IQC) with minimum and maximum contract amounts to be negotiated with the winning firms. Job or delivery orders will be issued to the winning firms as studies become necessary. Contract costs will be based on pre-negotiated unit and mobilization costs. The IQC will be valid until the contract ceiling cost is reached or when the contract duration expires. Prequalification is open to licensed/registered firms (applicable to each group and registered through SEC for corporations or DTI for entrepreneurs) from the Philippines.

Applicants can send applications for one or more categories, for consortium or large companies with varied specialization or services. Eligible applicants may obtain the prequalification documents, including the requirements for the company profile and short technical proposal, from the office of the Deputy Program Manager for Contracts and Administration, Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines beginning 21 September 2005. Those who wish to respond to this solicitation can also download the available documents at www.mindanao.org/iqcdownloads. The available documents should include: (a) Checklist of Requirements and format and necessary content of Company Profile; (b) Terms of Reference for the various required studies—TORs A through F (download as needed); (c) Terms of Reference and Conditions of the Indefinite Quantity Contracts; and (d) Indicative locations of projects. Deadline for receipt of submissions is 5 October 2005, 3:00pm at the office of the GEM Deputy Program Manager for Contracts and Administration.

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation

A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-99-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project : Supply, Delivery and Installation of One (1) lot Carpet

BRANCH	AREA	REMARKS
Pavilion	5,000 sq.m.	Supply, delivery and Installation
	250 sq.m.	Supply and delivery

Brief Description : Fabric Construction: Tufted, patterned, cut pile carpet tile; Carpet Fiber: 80/20 wool nylon blend; Gauge:1/8 gauge; Density Factor: 410,256; Yarn weight: 40 oz. square yard/ 1356 gm/sqm; Max. of eight (8) colors that include silver, gold, bronze for 20 designs

Approved Budget : Seventeen Million Two Hundred One Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Pesos (P17,201,250.00)

Source of Fund : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from September 16, 2005 to October 10, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eight Thousand Six Hundred & 63/100 Pesos (Php 8,600.63)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
Pre-Bid Conference	September 28, 2005 (2 pm)
Submission of Bids	October 11, 2005 (2 pm)
Opening of Bids	October 11, 2005 (2 pm onwards)

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 2
(PDI - Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

National Power Corporation

September 14, 2005

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC BIDDING

The NPC-Employees & Welfare Fund (**NPC-ESWF**) invites buyers "**TO BID**" for the ff. property:

Property Name	:	NPC-Irisan Housing Project-Phase II
Location	:	Brgy. Irisan, Naguilian Road, Baguio City
Total Area in Squre meter	:	**78,616 sq. mtrs.;** subdivided (with titles issued by Baguio City Reg. Of Deeds) into 215 saleable lots and 18 lots Road lots, Alleys & Open spaces; Updated Realty Tax Payment
Description	:	Undeveloped/rawland property with sloping & rolling terrain;
HLURB Cert. of Reg. No.	:	CR-CAR-01-97-004
Zonal; Current Market Value	:	P1,700.00 / sq.mtr.; P3,000/sq. mtr.
Floor Price; Terms	:	**P550.00 / sq. mtr. ; Cash / NET**
Pre-Bid Conference / Site Inspection	:	October 13, 2005 – 9:00 A.M., Baguio City
Deadline for submission of Bids	:	October 20, 2005 – 5:00 P.M.
Opening of Bids	:	**October 21, 2005, 9:30 A.M.** NPC-ESWF Office

Bid documents can be secured on October 1-12, 2005, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. at NPC-ESWF Office, 3rd Floor, NPC Bldg. I, corner Quezon Avenue & Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP 500.00

(Sgd.) **EDMUND R. ANGULUAN**
VP-HR / Admin / Finance &
Ex-Officio Chairman
Welfare Fund Board of Trustees

(PDI – Sept. 20, 22 & 25, 2005)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

Tanggapan ng Pangalawang Kalihim
Office of the Undersecretary

Telefax 631-96-40
Direct Line 633-93-42
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2221/2007
E-Mail Address pdiuc@deped.gov.ph
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
(Supply and Delivery-Rebid)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline/ Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Fortified Biscuits	Php7,164,000.00	September 28, 2005 2:00 pm	October 10, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php4,000.00	BALS Conference Rm. 4th Flr., Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	INC

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting **September 20, 2005** upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no: 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. MACUR D. MAROHOMBSAR**
Vice-Chairperson, BAC

(PDI--Sept. 18 & 25, 2005)

WAA

8th Woodrose Family BAZAAR

October 1 & 2, 2005
Cuenca Community Center,
Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City

Telefax: 842-9458 Trunkline: 850-6380 loc. 128
waa@writeme.com

NOTICE OF PREQUALIFICATION TO BID

A foreign-assisted project, currently providing capacity-building support to the Philippine government and local government units, is pre-qualifying prospective bidders for **Events Management Services.**

The service provider shall handle pre-activity planning, logistics manangement during actual event, documentation and post-activity evaluation. Types of events to be managed include: trainings, seminars, workshops, conferences, stakeholder consultations, meetings, roundtable/focused group discussions, road shows, information campaigns and program launches.

Interested firms must submit the following information on or before October 15, 2005:

1. Registered name of company and owner's name/s;
2. Contact information (address, phone, fax, e-mail)
3. Copy of SEC Registration
4. References (list of past and present clients)

Please submit your firm's credentials to:

Mr. Jhay Omega Bufi
ECAP
Unit 2606 Raffles Corporate Center
F. Ortigas Jr. Ave., (formerly Emerald Ave.)
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Telephone No.: 914-1106 to 09

(PDI – September 25 2005)

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Sunday BIZ

Concrete jungle teems with life on Saturdays

FRUITS and vegetables are favorite fare during weekends

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao
Photos by Jerome C. Dumlao

THERE IS LIFE IN A CONCRETE JUNGLE.

This is true at least for the little park in Salcedo Village living in the shadow of tall residential and commercial buildings

Every Saturday, *tilapia* from Batangas, giant catfish from Pampanga are grilled, flavored iced teas blended, vegetable *lumpias* rolled, fresh crabs weighed and homemade ice cream scooped in this quaint marketplace.

Entire families, couples and a few solitary individuals converge here and make their way through the many tents sheltering some 131 vendors, many of whom sell goods not seen anywhere else.

Marc Medina, manager of the Salcedo Weekend Market, tells SundayBiz that it was just 16 months ago when the Bel-Air Youth, under the supervision of Bel-Air barangay captain Constancia Q. Lichauco, opened the market with a paltry 27 vendors.

Medina says the youth group sat down with the organizers of a similar weekend market in Ayala Alabang for pointers on how to run the show. They then went around the stalls at Market!Market!, Food Terminal Inc., Siddcor to convince entrepreneurs there to set up shop in Salcedo.

When the market finally opened, the residents living near the market were the first patrons. But as word got around that there were unique, affordable and tasty food and drinks available here, the market gained a solid following.

After that, there was no stopping the tide.

From 27, the number of vendors almost doubled to 52 in just a few months, and it just kept on growing.

Today, the market is full at 129 vendors with a waiting list of over 369 vendors wanting to showcase their wares to market goers with open wallets.

The lucky 129 pay rent of just P400 a day, which goes to the rent of the tents, the maintenance of the grounds and the food allowance of the BelAir Youth who man the market. Some of them record sales of at least P80,000 for just about eight hours of operation, from 7 in the morning to about 3 in the afternoon.

Not bad at all, which explains the long waiting list.

Medina attributes the Salcedo Weekend Market's attractiveness to the depth and breadth of the products for sale at the market.

Lichauco adds that the Bel-Air Youth and the barangay officials had a clear idea of how they wanted the market to look like from the start.

"We wanted to create a venue where people could do their weekend shopping, while providing opportunities to small scale entrepreneurs and housewives to sell their unique, handmade products," Lichauco says, "We have to try to have a diverse selection of products you will not find elsewhere, products that are usually made to order."

Medina adds that the group also wanted the market to be a venue for the best products from the regions to reach the Metro Manila market, and for start-up entrepreneurs to have a viable venue for their wares.

"We try to avoid big name brands," Medina says.

Pascale iced tea

One entrepreneur who attributes her growth to the weekend market is Chikee Banzon who has been selling her Pascale's flavored iced tea every weekend for the past year.

Banzon says the market was perfect for her because it allowed her to share and profit from her culinary talent while taking care of her three children full time.

"I do not want to compromise my commitment as a mother. But this is a perfect compromise, because it gives me something productive to do while my children are busy with their own activities. It is empowerment," Banzon says. "And since I only do this on Saturdays, it does not take too much time away from my children."

She does her marketing during weekdays when her children are in school, prepares everything from home, then brings her products to the market before 7 a.m. on Saturdays.

Banzon has gone on to catering for small parties. And from iced tea, she has diversified into Asian food.

"I look forward to selling here. The camaraderie is really something," she says.

Monasteryo

Marge Barro of Monasteryo also says that it was because of the warm market reception to her line of food prepared in the centuries-old tradition of religious orders that she was encouraged to put up a restaurant in Greenbelt.

Monasteryo follows recipes handed down through generations of priests and nuns belonging to such orders as the Benedictines. Her products include baked tomatoes stuffed with cheese, meatballs in fresh tomato sauce

CONCRETE/ B3

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Nokia Store, 3rd Level, Digital Exchange, Glorietta, Makati City, Tel # 752-7814
Nokia Store, Ground Floor, Landsberg Place, Tomas Morato, Quezon City, Tel # 373-7110 to 13
Nokia Store, 4th Level, Festival Mall Alabang, Muntinlupa City, Tel # 850-8487
Nokia Store, Ground Floor, Cyberzone, SM North Edsa, Quezon City, Tel # 426-7990
Nokia Store, 3rd Level, Gaisano Mall, Davao City, Tel # (082) 225-4065
Viewers Telecom, 3rd Level, SM City, Lucena, Quezon
QSL Electronics, Perez Blvd. cor. Rizal St., Dagupan City
W.C.C., Unit 8, Quezon Ave., CKC Arcade, San Fernando, La Union
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25,

Text your feedback:
Inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)
or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**

WEDDING Expo Phils. opening, with Pastor Mark Castro, Josie and Buddy Abesamis, me, Fol Rana Jr., Marbee Go and Sharon Fabian

URBAN Spa owner Irene Ibañez, Giselle Sia and Max Talreja of Prince of Jaipur

DASHING executives Philip Cu-Unjieng, Francis Lumen, Johnny Litton and Dennis Valdes

Some wedding tips from wedded me

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

EVEN after celebrating 11 years of wedded bliss, I still got an exhilarating feeling of romance when I walked through the recent Weddings Expo Philippines at the NBC Tent. As it was an INQUIRER-sponsored event, I decided to agree to event organizer **Sharon Fabian**'s request to cut the ribbon at 10 a.m., which, to a night owl like me, is practically just after dawn.

Although romance cannot be fabricated, a romantic setting can be simulated, what with all the exciting wedding packages available in the market today. Even simple weddings nowadays need to be orchestrated down to the finest details in order to get that perfect, memorable program. The wedding fair was filled with suppliers for chocolate fountains, beautiful sugar flower cakes, wedding gowns, leather-bound photo albums, invitations and bouquets.

With the upcoming wedding of my youngest brother, **Paolo Prieto**, to his sweet charmer, **Ria Francisco**, I was eager to check out the latest options in the wedding world. Their wedding planner, **Chinkie Agregado** (tel. 0917-3281893) introduced herself and quickly showed me her booth.

A decade and one year ago, our wedding coordinator, Bridesmaids and Co., had just started business and planning a wedding then was not as complicated as it seems today. There were few choices and mostly standard designs available. Our Medieval-themed wedding had never been done and was just not part of the program of any supplier. Now, a couple just has to name their theme and there will be a corresponding vendor or more that can cater to that particular look.

The wonderful thing about this fair was that it brought all the different suppliers into one place. Soon-to-be wed couples walked the expo's aisles, talking to designers, admiring butterfly giveaways, tasting chocolate fountains and haggling for their fireworks finales. One supplier in the Expo, Excel Frames (tel. 4251525) even makes giveaways made from Mt. Pinatubo's ashes. **Sonny Osi** makes dramatic frames and décor with old European touches finished in various tones of gold.

> To check my hubby's loyalty after 11 years of marriage, I checked his mobile phone bill and found he had extensive talks with another woman—his mom

Cake art

A most impressive cake supplier was **Judy Uson**, a cake artist. Her custom-designed fondant cakes with the most delicate sugar petals are the prettiest I have ever seen. Check out her website, www.thecakeartist.ph, to see how stunning her creations are. Since I no longer have any occasion to order her cakes, I placed an order instead with yummy cupcake supplier, XX, for a charity event I organized to celebrate my birthday last month. XX was so sweet and gave me a three-tiered cake with sea-princess elements festooned around it.

Photography and videography had the most options available. Decision-making does not end with the choice of a photographer. Now, wedding packages are combinations of several services ranging from digital shots in color, sepia or black-and-white, laminated or printed on canvas, and video is virtually *de rigueur* to be supplied in digital format. Which reminds me—those of us who still have VHS tapes of our weddings should try and get those converted to DVD because even today, you probably no longer have a VHS player in your home. I had a chat with INQUIRER lensman **Chito**

SOME/ C2

NEWLYWEDS Celine Madamba and Dindo Abueg with Philip and Sandy Romualdez

JUST married Pebbles and Mike Garcia

INQUIRER photographer Chito Vecina and wife Nancy

ADWORKS Graphics Design team Mye and Norman Cruz

IMACRON owner Beth and Dominic Velasco

THEMES and Motifs' Ched Reyes and wedding planner Chinkie Agregado

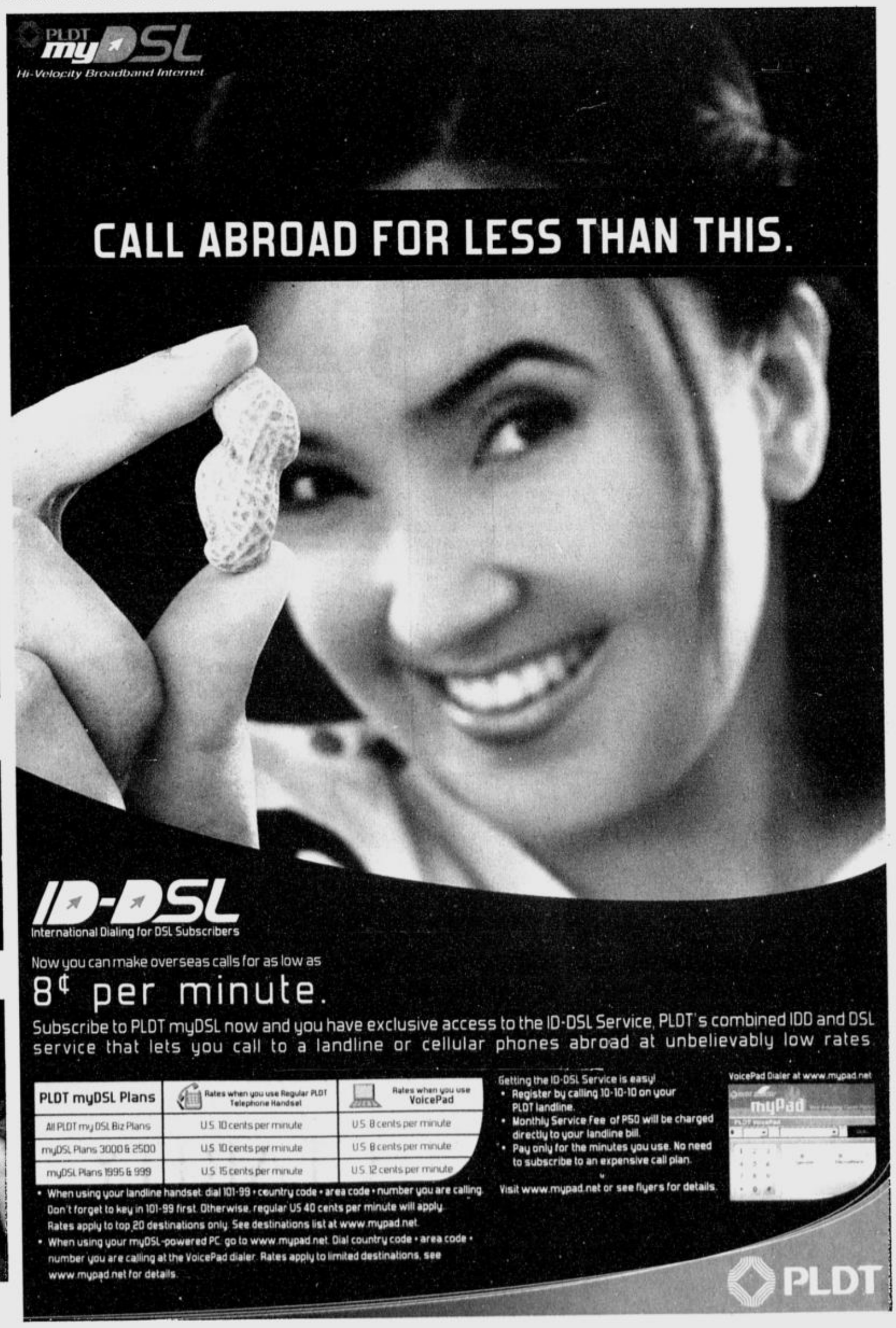
CAKE artist Judy Uson and hubby Batch

ENGAGED couple Claire Limkin and Willy Saw

OUR FRIENDLY neighbors lawyer Leonardo and Armida Siguion-Reyna

TATLER couple Raul and Irene Francisco

SMART Infinity guests Rachel Lobangco, DJ Manolet Dario, Tom Valderrama and Mariko Jacinto



COLOR Theory's Lynn Monroy, Mariel San Agustin, Ana Menendez, Happy David, Kat Manese, Marge Manalaysay and Maripi Menendez

SMART Infinity family. Julie Carceller, Boy Martirez, Dave Nugent and Ipe Cruz

Some wedding tips from wedded me

From page C1

Vecina (tel. 8096190), who had great angles in his sample shots and black-and-white photo album. Photography is truly an art.

At the Imacron Digital booth, I bumped into Smart Infinity's bachelor-no-more **Tom Valderrama** and his fiancée. They were scouting around for video ideas for their wedding at the end of this year. XX, a video production house (tel. 9201375) owned by **Dominic Velasco**, creatively does dynamic videos that are truly unique. I commissioned him to produce an MTV-style video with all my outfits in three days.

Later that week, I saw dashing Tom V. again at the launch party of the Smart Infinity Card. Their newest privilege card (Urban Spa is part of it) had a chill-out style cocktail party at the Manila Pen's Rigodon Ballroom, featuring sultry **Kuh Ledesma.** I enjoyed the Dreyers ice cream being passed around. Now, that's my kind of cocktail, chill food!

Charity side

It is indeed "simply amazing" how Smart has been so aggressive with their marketing and promotions. I am just glad they also have a charitable side to their marketing. Smart is sponsoring my Assumption class' upcoming badminton tournament. My dream is that I will be as suave as Bantay Bata chair **Gina Lopez** in soliciting pledges.

MY DIAMOND boss Thomas Florencio with Karen Angel

For my recent birthday-cum-charity event, I even solicited from a store that hadn't opened yet at that time of the party. Color Theory is a bazaar-like shop in a most unusual area in Fort Bonifacio. It's in the Colby Building on Bayani Road (a little past the golf driving range). Young entrepreneur **Happy David** opened this shop last week together with four other merchants. They are selling various items like Belliya's candles, Domesticity's weave baskets, Indie Art bags and PoBi leather shoes. Happy has been one of my favorite suppliers for funky accessories and charms. With Christmas just around the corner, Color Theory is a fun and affordable place to shop for all your friends.

SMART and engaged Tom Valderrama and fiancée Tricia Tariela

HEARTS and Bells cake maker Marita Laddaran

FIREWORKS expert Hans Ong

HAPPY bride Emily Siy and Sonny Osi of Excel Frames

Being married over a decade, like any good wife, I sometimes give the hubby a loyalty check. While finishing this article, I spied his cell phone bill on his desk. I quickly glanced at his phone calls and noticed only one or two long ones. The longest, at 11 minutes, was to... his mom! I guess I don't have much to worry about.

Making a marriage last means we have learned to make even the simplest occasion special. We will have a romantic date soon, watching **Michael Bublé** on Oct. 12 at the Araneta Coliseum. This Canadian crooner is back, this time with his 12-member band and a new repertoire from his new CD, "It's Time." Hearing his silky, sexy baritone voice once again will definitely spark a little love in your hearts.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

WEE-SEBASTIAN

Sussane Sebastian, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Hun Hun "Nea" Sebastian**, married recently **Jeffrey Wee**, son of **Salvador** and **Consolacion Wee**, at Metropolitan Cathedral of Immaculate Conception Church, Zamboanga City. The bride wore an ecru duchess satin gown by **Leonard Co.**

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

PE-SY

Benedict Michael Pe, son of **Benedict L. Pe Lim** and **Lourdes Chua-Pe Lim** will marry **Aileen Sy**, daughter of **Anita Kaw Sy** on Oct. 2, 4 p.m. at the Santuario de San Jose in Greenhills. Reception will be at the Shangri-La Edsa Hotel. The bride will wear an opulent white Thai silk gown with lavish beadwork using Swarovski crystals.

CRISTI-RUBINA

Arvin Jasper A. Cristi, son of **Vicente Jr.** and **Angela Cristi**, will wed **Karen Anne V. Rubina**, daughter of **Ricardo** and **Mercedes Rubina**, on Oct. 8 at St. John Bosco Parish, Makati City. The bridal gown is designed by Pepsi Herrera.

NARIO DEBUT

Angelica Marie T. Nario, daughter of lawyer **Narciso P. Nario Jr.** and **Ma. Lina Torres-Nario**, celebrated her 18th birthday on Sept. 17 at The Garden, Albergus Restaurant, Q.C.

Sunshine, as she is fondly called, is a second year Nursing student at the University of Santo Tomas. She is the granddaughter of retired Sandiganbayan Justice and Ms **Narciso S. Nario** and Dr. **Roberto Torres** (deceased) and Ms **Asuncion Castro-Torres.**

Bridal shower

RUSTAN'S ESSENSES PRESENTS "BRIDE OF All Seasons" this September.

The theme aims to awaken in women of all ages the desire to look and feel good on their wedding day.

As part of this month-long promotion, all Rustan's stores have special product offers from different brands.

Brides-to-be who receive a "Bounce Back Card" get a "bring-back-the-bridal-glow" makeover on counter and five-percent discount on makeup and skin care purchases of at least P10,000.

Christian Dior pampers the bride with a complimentary No Age G. for every P7,000 purchase. And Clarins gives a classic beige bag for every P5,000 purchase inclusive of a Lip Color Tint or True Comfort Foundation.

For the groom, La Prairie gives a Shared Essential gift with the purchase of P15,000 worth of La Prairie products.

Nars gives brides a complimentary lip color for every purchase of any two Nars eye products.

Woods of Windsor offers, for a minimum purchase of P800 inclusive of any of the brand's pick of the month, Orange Spice Exfoliating Glycerine Body Bar.

Get a complimentary body lotion or shower gel from any of the flower product lines (Mimosa, Glycine or Hibiscus) for every P2,000 purchase from Acca Kappa

Lee Stafford makes its Poker Straight shampoo and conditioner set available for P575, instead of the regular price of P690.

Murad's Firm and Tone Cellulite Treatment gives brides a post-honeymoon free Murad Cellulite Solution Book with every purchase of a set of Cellulite products (serum and supplement pack).

T. Le Clerc offers the bride the "Pink Me Collection" that comes with a limited edition Swarovski necklace for every P2,500 purchase.

For every purchase of two Sugar Baby lip colors, get a third lip color as a special gift.

Until Sept. 30, any bride will be entitled to an Aromatherapy Body Treatment at Essenses for a minimum purchase of P1,500 worth of Apivita products.

Bridal Value sets are available at L'Occitane Orange, Lavender, Almond and Honey Harvests.

Essie gives a bridal shower treat of manicure and pedicure value sets.

POKER Straight shampoo and conditioner, at P575, from P690 regular price

VALUE sets from L'Occitane (Orange, Lavender, Honey and Almond Harvest)

Feast of patron saint . . .

From page C4

by 89 contributors including Loida Nicolas-Lewis, who gave me a copy, and Gina de Venecia. Danny de Sequera was copy editor.

A believer in miracles, Bunny thought of doing something that would make a difference in the lives of people by sharing with them stories of miracles that happened to others.

"Little Book of Miracles and Answered Prayers" talks about lost lives redeemed, health regained and mortal dangers averted. Published by Barefeet Publishing, the book is available at A Different Bookstore, Ink and Stone, Booked, Bibliarch, Power-Books and National Bookstore.

Sales will benefit the SVD Mission Office, Mula sa Puso Foundation, Apostolate of Our Lady Queen of Peace, Home for the Angels and Association of St. John Ma. Vianney at St. James the Great Parish in Ayala, Alabang.

Mission

I discovered in the Internet the Mission of the Little Flower in the USA and Canada that propagates the devotion to St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

If you would like to receive e-mail from them, please visit http:/www.littleflower.org/info/e-news/. You can also send your petitions. Their addresses are: Society of the Little Flower, 1313 Frontage Road, Darien, Illinois 60561, or call toll free (800) 6212806, or e-mail susan@littleflower.org and Society of the Little Flower, 7021 Stanley Avenue, Niagara Falls, Ontario L2G 7B7, tel. no. (800)9227622. The feast day of St. Therese is Oct. 1.

Healing Mass

Fr. Nelson Osorio will hold a recollection and Healing Mass on 7 a.m.-1 p.m., Oct. 3, at the St. Joseph the Patriarch Archdiocesan Shrine in San Jose, Batangas. The public is invited.

Angel festival

Twenty five schools, with students dressed as *Pilipinong Anghel*, will join the parade in honor of St. Raphael the Archangel at 1 p.m., Sept. 29 in San Rafael, Bulacan. Hermano Mayor Allan Tengco says the parade is a way of thanking St. Raphael for his intercession. The Parish of San Juan de Dios and the San Raphael Tourism Council began the parade in 2002.

The parade is more like a prayer asking God for peace and prosperity for the town and to make the youth aware of the need to pray to the patron saint, St. Raphael the Archangel. Sept. 29 is also the feast day of St. Michael, St. Gabriel and the Archangels.

Healing priest

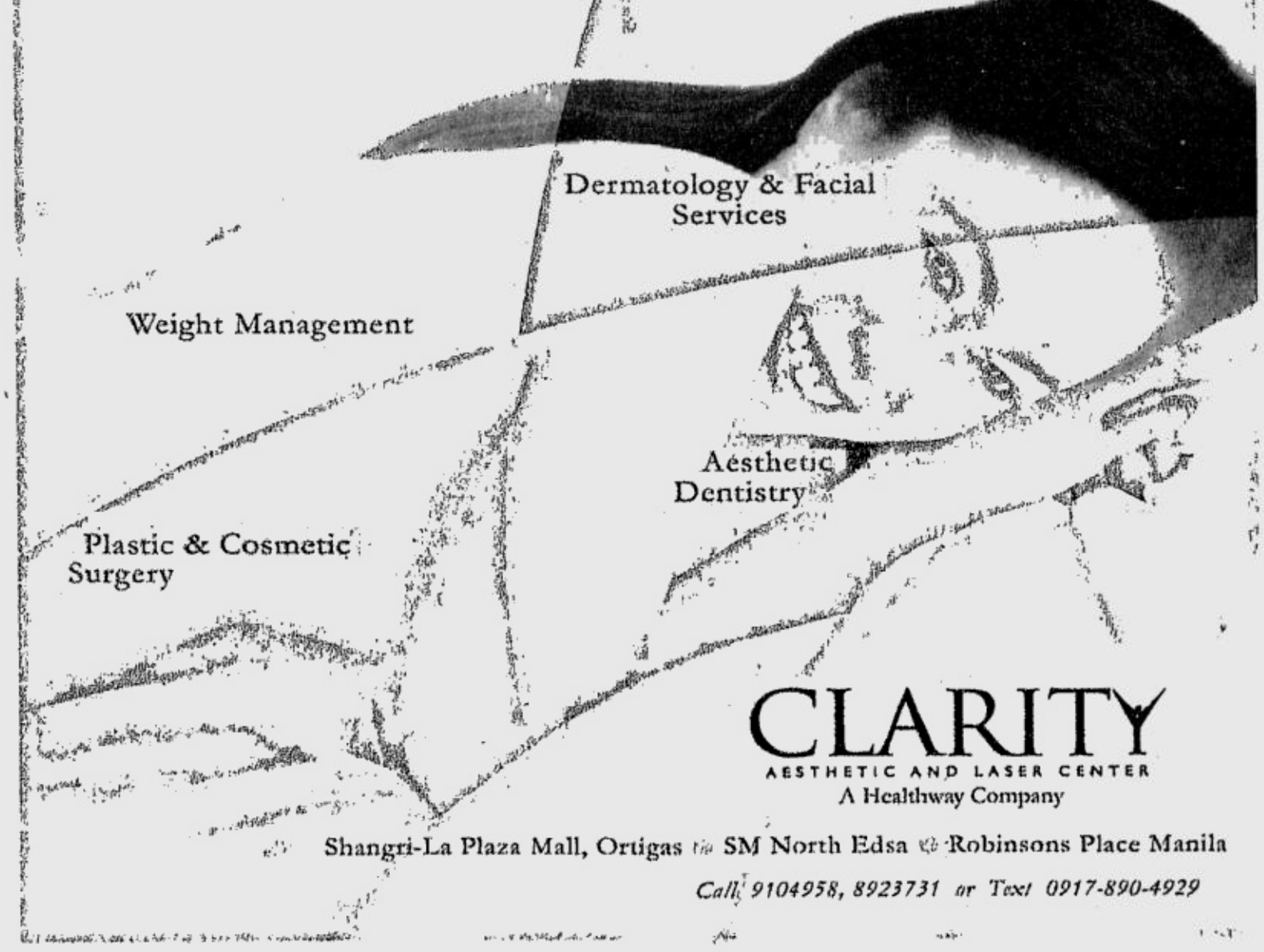
When one goes for healing to the chapel of Fr. Diwane Cacao in Lopez Village, Los Baños, he will find a lot of people wanting to be healed. The popularity of Fr. Cacao as a healing priest has grown very fast since he started healing as a young priest.

Those seeking to be healed can now join Fr. Cacao as he leads a pilgrimage to the miracle sites of Europe like Assisi, Padova, Lourdes and Paray le Monial, to name a few.

The itinerary also includes Venice, Salzburg in Austria, Lucerne in Switzerland, Monte Carlo, Nice, Paris and Rome. Those interested can call 5211651/38 or text 0915-5514468.

OCCIDENTAL Mindoro Rep. Girlie Villarosa, Bunny Reyes and Loida Nicolas Lewis

HEALING priest Fr. Diwane Cacao



One Card, Infinite Possibilities

Part I: Bars & Restaurants

Welcome to the beginning of seamless indulgence. Just recently, SMART Infinity, the country's premium wireless postpaid service launched its very own privilege card. The SMART Infinity Privilege Card was unveiled during a lavish affair at the Manila Peninsula's Rigodon Ballroom attended by well-heeled SMART Infinity subscribers and prominent guests. The card, which will automatically be given to both existing and new SMART Infinity subscribers, boasts some of the most extraordinary privileges that no other privilege card can offer, giving them the red carpet treatment they deserve.

What other privilege card allows you to stay in Bagulo Country Club, even if you're not a member, and with a 20% discount on the room, full use of its golf course and facilities? What other privilege card entitles you to exclusive year-round discounts at the Rustan's End-Of-Season sale two days before it even starts? And what other privilege card entitles you to free parking at Shangri-La Plaza, where you get to avail of out of this world privileges once inside?

'To meet the high standards of its discerning subscribers, SMART Infinity has partnered with only the most prestigious establishments in Manila and other popular destinations nationwide. From exclusive country clubs to malls, bars and restaurants, shops to hotels, spas to family KTVs, you can expect unbelievable deals when armed with your SMART Infinity Privilege Card.

Continental Delights and More

Fine dining connoisseurs will learn that the SMART Infinity Privilege Card is loaded with incredible deals that will surely whet their appetite. For starters, indulge in a modern culinary experience at **Embassy**, courtesy of renowned chef Fernando Aracama. Here, cardholders can enjoy 20% off on lunch, free wine for dinner bills of at least P4,000 and free cava for dinner bills of at least P6,000. Discover the taste of Germany at Manila's only authentic German restaurant, **Schwarzwalder,** and get 15% off on food and beverage and a free cup of coffee or tea for a minimum bill of P1,000. Indulge in good Italian cuisine at **Bravo Ristorante Italiano**, which offers 15% off on food and drinks, a free dessert of your choice and a gift certificate for every P1,000 accumulated food and drink receipts. Trendy **Museum Café** is another swanky place to dine in and have a nightcap, while sister establishments **Chateau 1771** and **Portico 1771** have always proven reliable options for their warm ambiance. Old timer favorites **Italianni's** and **Outback** Restaurant still have their strong appeal for people of all ages, and now you can enjoy them even more with your SMART Infinity Privilege card. Ever popular wine and dine hangout **Nuvo** beckons with its perpetually buzzing outdoor area. **Grappa's Ristorante** is also a SMART Infinity Privilege Card merchant, so expand your Italian culinary horizons and try them out too. Swing by current European sensation chain **Segafredo** for an intimate meal and good coffee. At **Max Brenner**, you'll walk in craving for that cocoa high and walk out feeling royally satisfied.

Tastes of Asia

Filipino gourmands will surely appreciate the home-cooked style goodness offered at **Sentro 1771**. For the irresistible tang of Chinese cuisine, show your SMART Infinity Privilege Card at modern favorites **Big Buddha Restaurant** or **Zhongnanhai Chinese Bistro** and see what they have in store for you. Cozy hangout **Temple** also accepts your SMART Infinity Privilege Card, and if it's something with a little more zest you want, a taste of India awaits you at **Prince of Jaipur.**

Sugar Highs and Parties

For the sweet tooth, there's **Haagen-Dazs** which is widely considered to be the best ice cream brand in the world, and you've certainly earned the right to enjoy it with your privilege card. And if you experience a surge of calorific guilt, burn it all off by heading to a **BigFish** party where your card gains you and a companion free entry before midnight.

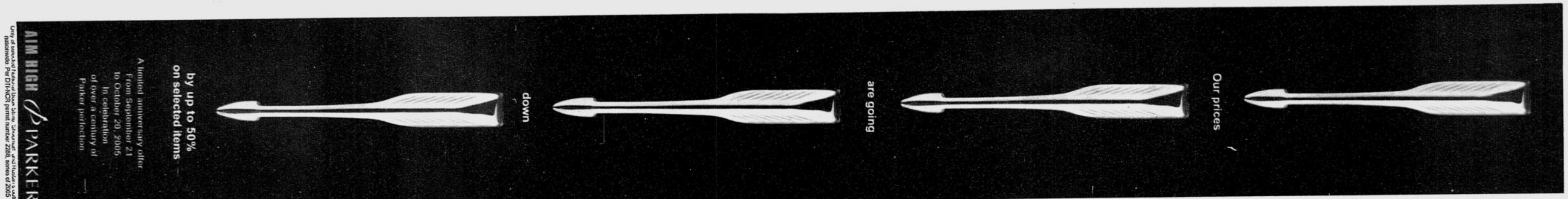
Other Destinations

Your SMART Infinity Privilege Card is not limited to the confines of Metro Manila. In Bagulo, it is also recognized at **Forest House Bistro & Café, Otaka-Ya and The Republic Bar & Café**. In Pampanga, you can use it at **The Pampanga Grand House**, and in Tagaytay you're entitled to privileges at the **Viewsite Seafood Restaurant**. When you decide to hit the beach paradise that is Boracay, don't forget to take it with you for special privileges at **Sea Wind** and **Juice Bar**. In Cebu, it is recognized in **Vudu, Café Royale, Brown Cup** and **Formo Bar.** And way down south in Davao, your card is welcome at **Impit Purok, Yellow Fin** and **Iron Horse Buffet Resto**.

Enjoy Life's Best

The list doesn't end there. More privileges await you at various high-end shops, hotels, salons and recreational establishments across the nation. More than that, should you find yourself at a SMART Wireless Center your Privilege Card puts you on the fast track once you flash it to a member of staff and you will automatically receive priority service; the same kind of first-class service you have become accustomed to as a SMART Infinity subscriber. To learn more about the privileges that await you, you can download the "privilege menu" and check your privileges by texting PRIVILEGES and sending it to 211.

Needless to say, the SMART Infinity Privilege Card is truly one of the finest ways to enjoy life's best.



SundayLIFESTYLE
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2005

Feast of patron saint of migrants

FR. JOSE MARIO LADRA, PARISH priest of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan, says San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila could very well be the patron saint of migrants. More and more overseas workers are flocking to the San Lorenzo Ruiz Church in the town asking for the saint's intercession. And they return to thank him for answered prayers.

The church will mark the feast of San Lorenzo Ruiz today, not Sept. 28. Fr. Ladra says San Lorenzo went to Japan because of necessity. He was forced by circumstances, like fellow Filipinos who have to go abroad so they could support their families.

Fr. Ladra, who built the church with the help of many people, is himself astounded by the P19 million that came in a span of three years for the construction of this church that is the only one in Bulacan dedicated to the saint.

The miraculous intercession of San Lorenzo Ruiz made this possible. He also answered the prayers of Cesar Diego, an artist who now has a lucrative job in Dubai; devotee Roby Martinez, who left recently to work in the United States; Citibank employee Annie Yanez, who obtained her multiple US visa after being denied several times; Rosario L. Alcantara, who was totally healed of her goiter problem and has migrated to Italy with her family; and Alvin Española, a seaman who now has a good job with a shipping company. Devotees are now calling San Lorenzo *"ang santong madaling lapitan"* because of these answered prayers.

San Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila, the first Filipino saint, was a simple layman who died a martyr for the faith on Sept. 29, 1637. He was beatified in Manila in 1981, by Pope John Paul II. In 1989, after proving the sanctity of life through miracles, he was canonized in Rome by the same Pontiff.

Fr. Ladra is inviting everyone to the fiesta today. There will be street dancing and parade. To go to the church, drive via Fairview and you will end up in San Jose del Monte. Every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. there is a healing Mass honoring San Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Joseph.

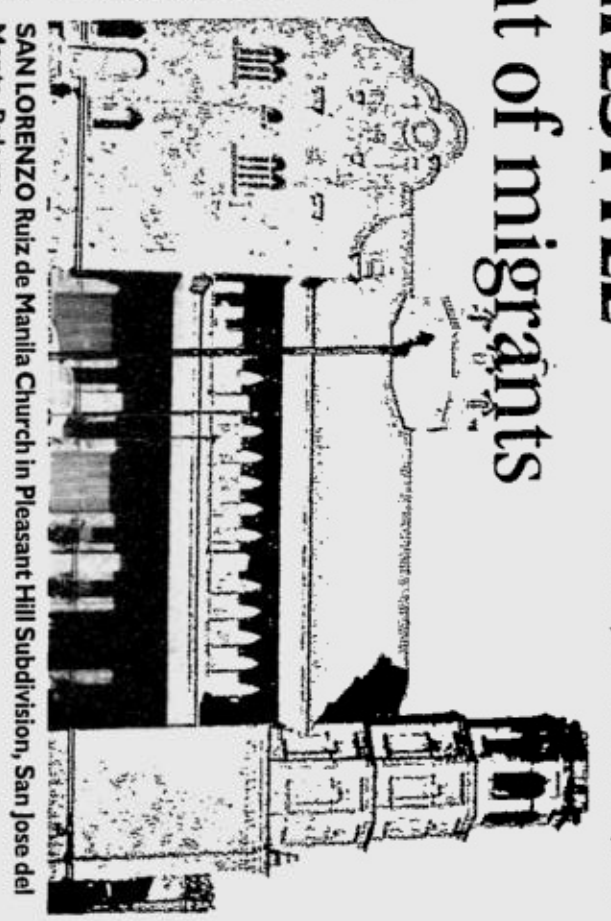
PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

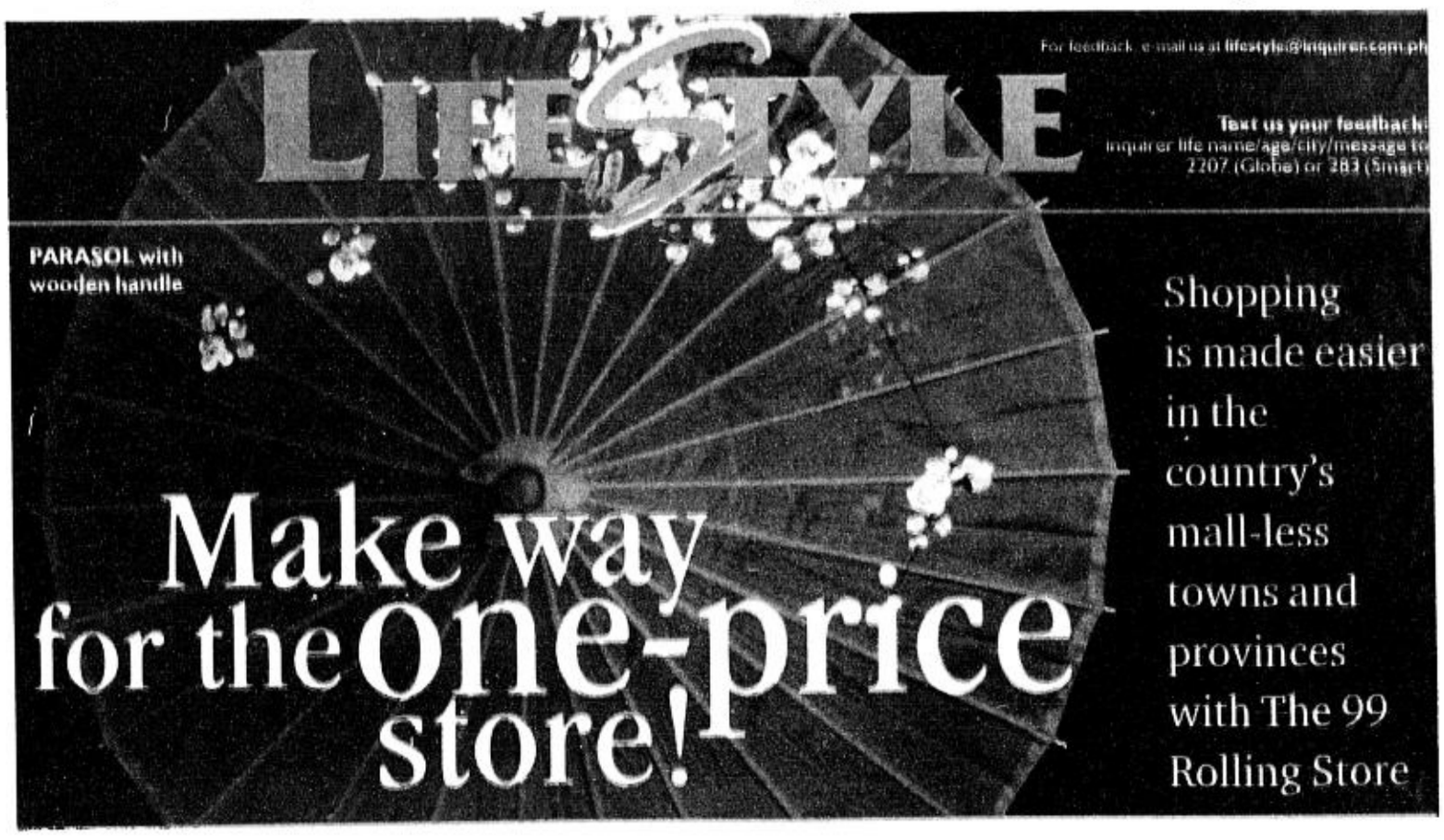
Book of miracles

Marilisa "Bunny" Villarosa-Reyes, 33, put together recently a book of miracles comprising 184 stories submitted

FEAST/C2



SAN LORENZO Ruiz de Manila Church in Pleasant Hill Subdivision, San Jose del Monte, Bulacan



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Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

SHOPPING IS FINALLY CLOSER to home.

For the visionary young owners of this one-price retail store, life becomes easier for residents in remote and isolated towns and barrios with the launching of their brainchild, the first-ever roving store in the country. If Mohammad can't go to the mountain, let the mountain come to Mohammad.

Taking inspiration from traveling caravans of circus entertainers that troop from one small neighborhood to the other during fiestas, couple Eric and Emelda Teng, owners of The 99 Store, has opened The 99 Rolling Store. The roving shopping destination takes after its mother store by selling everything at an affordable P99 each.

"In Manila you take your malls for granted since there's bound to be one a mere 15-minute drive from where you might be coming from. In the provinces, it takes a two- to three-hour drive just to do your groceries," says Eric.

Instead of queuing in line at bus stations and spending good money on fares, people can now stay put and let the store come to them. Depending on market and location, this store on wheels can stay up for the whole day in one spot, or spend a morning in a cozy corner in the town.

"*Tindahan ng bayan 'to*," says his wife Emelda.

Essential stuff

The purpose-built vehicle, considerably smaller than the regular store, still packs the essential shopping stuff such as apparel and other household and novelty items. Emergency articles like umbrellas can come in handy especially in today's unpredictable weather. At only P99, the goods hardly make a dent in anyone's safeguarded budget.

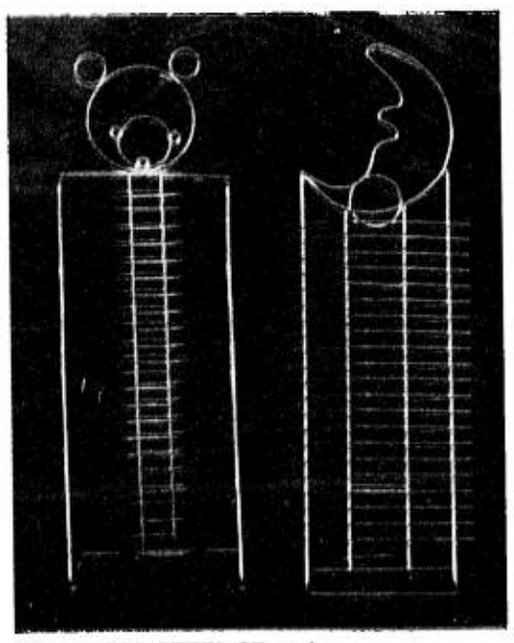
"It's like a *sari-sari* store. We try to come out with something new because you can't get into retail without being innovative," says Eric.

Three people, one driver and two sales personnel man the 99 Rolling Store. Although designed for travel in the provinces, the store initially took off on Tomas Morato, QC. Despite the existence of nearby shops and malls, Eric says they still made a decent sale at the end of the day.

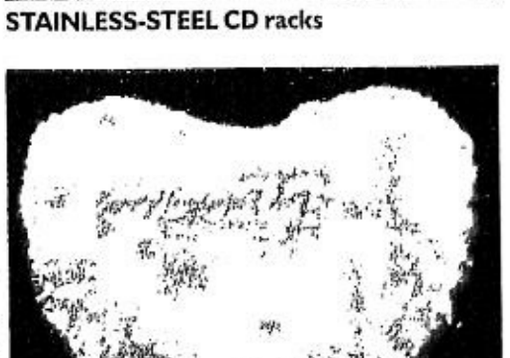
Now ready for franchise, The P99 Rolling Store will get full merchandise support but without the crippling overhead costs. No need to renovate, no rent fees and each franchisee get to choose a better location at all times. Acquiring town permits, of course, applies. Eric says it takes about 45 days to construct one store, for this is a new retail format.

"If we can get this working here it's not im-

MAKE/ D2



STAINLESS-STEEL CD racks



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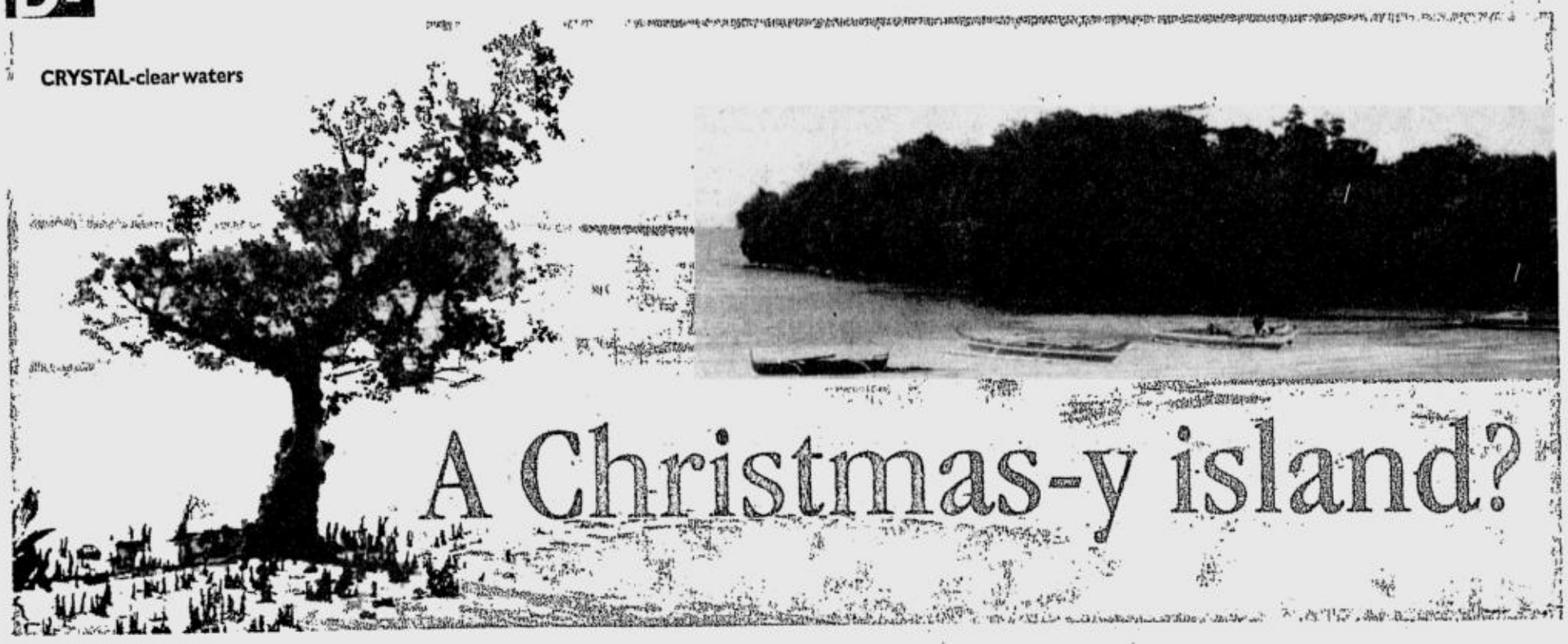


CRYSTAL-clear waters

A Christmas-y island?

MALAPASCUA church

Text and photos by Nilo A. Alterado
Contributor

KNOWN TO THE LOCALS AS Logon, the island of Malapascua in Cebu may soon drop its old name altogether.

The new name appears to be easier for Pinoys and foreigners to remember. Even pumpboats that ferry visitors and brochures only carry the name Malapascua.

And what we once called a barrio, is now the village.

In May, Malapascua draws people not only from Luzon and Mindanao but also from abroad eager to join the celebration of the feast of its miraculous patron saint, Virgin de los Samparados.

Highlight of the celebration is a fluvial parade participated in by almost a hundred pump boats followed by a procession.

Tourists, many of them repeat visitors, say this unknown little island is like Boracay with its white beaches. The coral reefs and crystal clear water are excellent for snorkeling and scuba diving.

With the increasing tourist traffic, the locals are no longer shocked by the sight of sunbathers in bikini.

"The best season for diving is October to March because the weather is at its best," said a staff member of Dive Link, which provided diving lessons and gear. A basic scuba diving course costs US$300 inclusive of four days of lectures, five 45-minute dives, and video presentation.

The advance course costs US$200. A license is issued upon completion of the course.

SUNSET at Malapascua

A visitor can dive with a diving master in deep waters for US$25 per dive inclusive of equipment and boat ride. Fun or Discover Scuba dive in shallow waters costs US$50.

The island has more than a dozen beach and dive resorts and all seem to be doing brisk business.

Visitors can go on a 45-minute boat ride to the Monad Shoal to watch manta rays and tresher sharks. Best time for diving is 5-6 a.m. Gato island is where white-tipped sharks are found. In front of the lighthouse is the wreckage of a Japanese ship.

Rest house rates are P250-P1,200 per day, twin-sharing, for non-air conditioned room. An air-conditioned cottage costs P2,000-P3,500. Rates are higher during the peak season of October-May. Off season is June-September. Rest houses have in-house generators.

First-time visitors may find Bebe's Inn and Dano's Beach resort suitable. They are clean and the owners are very hospitable.

An air-conditioned rest house on a rocky cliff stands next to a cemetery, though that does not seem to bother the people who opt to stay there.

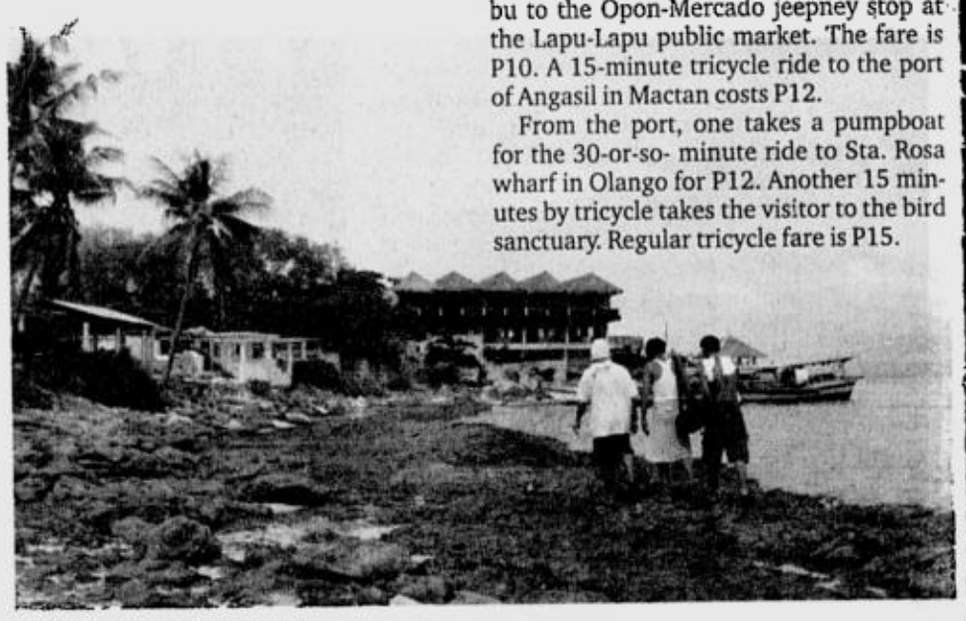
Malapascua has also become a haven for artists. Photography hobbyists often look for their shots at 6-9 a.m. and 5-6:30 p.m. Sunsets are favorite subjects, as well as rock formations.

Visitors also find the lifestyle of villagers interesting.

Pilar Pilapil, the former Miss Philippines, is expected to open Pilar's Haven, constructed on top of a hill, before the year ends. In her bedroom is a still-to-be-finished underwater mural by Cebuano painter Rudy Manero.

Globe and Smart cell sites have made communication easy for those visiting the island. Some roads are now made of concrete and there is electricity 6 p.m.-12 midnight. The generator for electricity is under the supervision of the parish.

Both residents and visitors seem to find it easier to call what was formerly Logon by its new name, Malapascua



REST house and cemetery

Habal-habal, a three-passenger motorcycle, has become the means of transportation.

Malapascua is accessible by land and sea. Visitors can take a taxi from Mactan airport or the pier to the Mandaue north bus terminal. The four-hour bus ride will take them to Maya from where they can board an outrigger boat for the 40-minute trip to Malapascua.

An ordinary bus charges P100 while the occasional air-conditioned bus charges P150.

The boat ride costs P40. A boat leaves from Maya to the island until 5 p.m. The last boat from Malapascua leaves at 1 p.m.

When the tide is low, visitors have to transfer to a smaller boat from the main boat both at Maya and Malapascua ports.

Another island visitors might be interested in is Olango, a small island of Mactan that is a sanctuary for migratory birds.

Visitors can take a jeepney from SM Cebu to the Opon-Mercado jeepney stop at the Lapu-Lapu public market. The fare is P10. A 15-minute tricycle ride to the port of Angasil in Mactan costs P12.

From the port, one takes a pumpboat for the 30-or-so- minute ride to Sta. Rosa wharf in Olango for P12. Another 15 minutes by tricycle takes the visitor to the bird sanctuary. Regular tricycle fare is P15.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — **REALLY IS A ...**

ACROSS
1 Least remote
6 Sharp as —
13 Pet cats
20 Loss of memory
21 Actor Willem
22 Disney World is near it
23 Texas town SE of Dallas
25 Volcanic peak in the Cascades
26 Gin-flavoring fruit
27 Erie, e.g.
28 Math course
29 Rapping "Dr."
30 "Great" filth-century pope
33 North Carolina town SE of Kitty Hawk
37 Aunt, in Avila
38 Halloween word
40 Grieg or Munch
41 Bump into
42 Mississippi town SE of Jackson
46 Twosome
47 Lick like a dog
49 Barbara of "Gone With the Wind"
50 Maxims
53 Unlocks, in poetry
55 Groom's promise
58 — -Bo (exercise system)
60 Metric weight
61 Arkansas town east of Texarkana
63 Lilting tune
65 "Harper Valley —"
67 Prejudice
69 Reducing gradually, with "out"
70 New Mexico town NNW of Las Cruces
74 Shutdown
75 Author Harte
76 Egypt and Syria, once: Abbr.
77 Ending for Vietnam
78 Arizona town NE of Flagstaff
80 Zilch
82 — -Caps (Nestle brand)
84 Magazine edition: Abbr.
85 With 64-Down, mechanics' crowbars
86 Tension
88 Lanchester and Maxwell
92 Kin of "-ology"
93 Chip topper
95 Wyoming town north of Cheyenne
97 Supper scraps
100 Highest-quality
103 Screen siren West
104 "... — quit!" (ultimatum)
105 Florida town SW of Melbourne
110 Initial course of action
112 Jet like the Concorde
113 To — it may concern
114 Clearasil target
115 Antifur org.
117 More sod-covered
119 California town NW of Eureka
124 Sent via PC
125 Simpson of fashion
126 Ancient graffiti
127 Scalps, as tickets
128 Military cap
129 Remove dirt from

DOWN
1 Badgers
2 Liquid suspended in another liquid
3 Make explanatory comments on
4 Insurgent
5 That, in Toledo
6 Barracks address
7 Roofing goop
8 Former veep Stevenson
9 Try, as a tough task
10 Off the mark
11 Light bed
12 Lock opener
13 Scorching
14 Thin as —
15 "Mutiny on the Bounty" captain
16 Blacklist
17 Like a disengaged engine
18 Swimmer Gertrude
19 Most achy
24 Moose
28 Tube-watching area
31 African virus
32 Punch response
34 Video store rentals
35 Water, in Paris
36 Little rascal
37 Even if, briefly
39 Two — kind
43 Like limes
44 Artist Degas
45 Wax collector?
47 Goatish guys
48 "You — interesting question"
51 Eva or Zsa Zsa
52 Illustrious
54 — New Guinea
55 Climbing vines
56 Slow-witted
57 Assoc.
59 One of the 12 tribes of Israel
61 Compass pt.
62 19th-century Seminole leader
63 Map book
64 See 85-Across
66 "— is human ..."
68 "— Is Born"
71 Hair clumps
72 FOX rival
73 Suppress
74 Ovid's 901
79 Shirt size
81 Yuletide mo.
83 Stair post
86 Design detail
87 Tally (up)
89 Guy doing masonry
90 Aquarium gizmos
91 — Lanka
92 Suffix with girl
94 Rural hotel
96 Disparity
97 Pearl source
98 Go on with
99 "Neon" fish
100 Coastal inlets
101 One ogling
102 Amuse
106 "Where there's — ..."
107 Potter's spinner
108 Beginning
109 Recent: Prefix
111 Cop —
116 Poker penny
118 "Bah!"
119 Like the Beatles
120 Lyric verse
121 TV watchdog agcy.
122 Mule of song
123 Rd. crosser

answer on page E1

Make way for the . . .

From page D1

possible that it can get exported. If we're lucky we might even be the pioneer in this form of business in Asia. There are a lot of areas in Vietnam or Cambodia, for instance, that don't have malls yet," Eric says.

The P99 Store also has a new endorser in the face of funnyman Bayani Agbayani. The new apparel line, The Bayani Joke Line, is exclusively available at all P99 Store outlets. Said to capture the fun and freedom the store is known for, the comedian's famous one-line jokes adorn T-shirts and other trendy threads.

Emelda says this is an addition to the store's current house brands such as P99 Girls, Kids P99, P99 Sports. But while apparel used to make up 80 percent of the store, the number is down to 60 percent, as the store has since evolved into some sort of lifestyle bazaar.

Don't be surprised, then, to find home items and accessories such as dishes, teapots, water heaters, bed sheets, pillow cases; gift sets for infants, feeding bottles, carry-on bags; stuffed toys, hand-puppets; back-to-school items; perfumes, colognes, wine holders, CD racks, fruit trays, sunglasses, moisturizers, scarves; corporate clothes as blazers and slacks; and a whole lot more.

Seasonal products, such as those for Mother's Day, Valentine's and Christmas, are also available.

GARDEN-THEMED towel handle and soap dish

FOOL'S cap

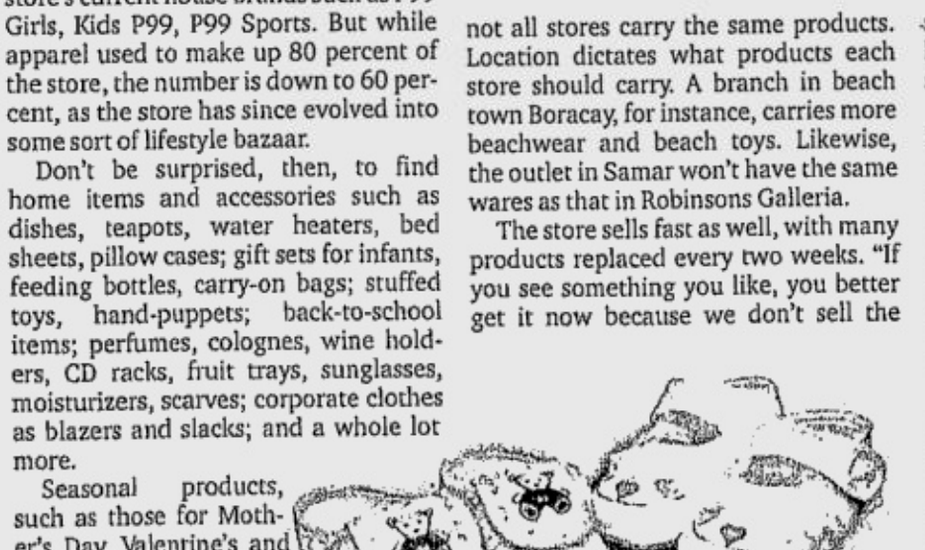
not all stores carry the same products. Location dictates what products each store should carry. A branch in beach town Boracay, for instance, carries more beachwear and beach toys. Likewise, the outlet in Samar won't have the same wares as that in Robinsons Galleria.

The store sells fast as well, with many products replaced every two weeks. "If you see something you like, you better get it now because we don't sell the same items every month, and we don't know how long each of the items will stand in the store racks," Eric says.

FOOTSIES for babies

Fast sellers

Despite the variety of items,



AROMATHERAPY set with burners, candles and scented oil

Products are sourced from China, Bangkok and Korea, although a good number of local merchandise is now inching their way into the stores as the couple's way of supporting Filipino manufacturers. While it is true that a trip to Divisoria might give a better mileage for the peso, Eric says their stores give consumers the easier route to a hassle-free shopping.

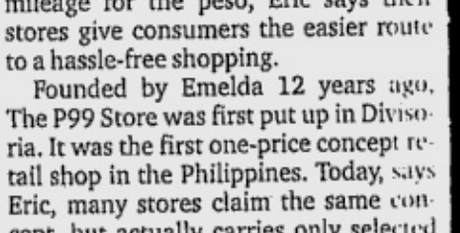
Founded by Emelda 12 years ago, The P99 Store was first put up in Divisoria. It was the first one-price concept retail shop in the Philippines. Today, says Eric, many stores claim the same concept, but actually carries only selected items at bargain prices. Only The P99 Store, he says, sells everything at a uniform price.

And what of the quality?

"I have a P99 shirt that I have owned for several years now. It's good quality. But T-shirts are T-shirts. You don't expect to wear them for five years," he says.

The P99 Store has 30 branches nationwide, including Cebu City, Cagayan de Oro City, Ozamis City, Samar, Tacloban City, Tuguegarao City, Vigan City, Laoag.

E-mail the author at ajamboran@inquirer.com.ph



PLUSH whale toy

THE ANNUAL Ball Committee: (seated) chair Marilen Elizalde, Fiona Ottiger; Fr. Mario Establecida, parish priest of Nakar, Quezon; and Linda Pastoral, CWC president; (standing) Ane Preysler, Nikki Valerio, Sofia Zobel-Elizalde, Junie Pena, Techie Hagedorn and outreach chair Tessie Rodrigo

Catholic Women's Club holds ball, bazaar

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB (CWC) will hold next month its annual Charity Ball and holiday bazaar.

This year's Annual Ball, titled "Twist and Shout—The Groovy Decade of the Sixties," will be held at the Hotel InterContinental on Oct. 8 at 7 p.m. It will be highlighted by a '60s medley dance number by CWC members and a performance by Step Dance Studios. The Flinstones Band will provide the music. Attire is '60s party wear.

Funds raised shall be donated to the town of Nakar, Quezon, for the construction of a community center where formation seminars and livelihood training sessions will be held for the victims of the 2004 killer typhoons and floods.

The Annual Ball committee is headed by Marilen Elizalde, Sofia Zobel Elizalde and Junie Pena. Members are Nikki Valerio, Ane Preysler, Ana Marie Saguil, Ana Rocha, Techie Hagedorn, Sevhrine Mialhe and Fiona Ottiger.

On Oct. 16 and 23, the CWC will hold its Casa y Jardin bazaar at the Hotel InterContinental, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. It will feature an array of different products such as holiday foods, Christmas décor, garments, jewelry, bags and others.

Limited-edition blue-and-white plates with Mother and Child done by portrait artist Betsy B. Westendorp will also be available for sale.

Proceeds of these bazaars will go to over 80 charities which CWC supports.

The CWC is headed by Linda Pastoral. The members of the Casa y Jardin committee are Mimi Valerio, Tessie Villarma, Tess Castro, Lulu Castaneda, Karen Macasaet, Tess Villarama, Baby Gloria, Rose Hugo, Myrna Borromeo, Inma Mutuc, Carrie Bautista, Nikki Valerio, Nene Leonor, Chat Pueo and Sol Tan-Gatue.

Call 8432869 or 0916-5195607.

WENCESCO Enterprises celebrates its 50th year with an ongoing fashion exhibit until Sept. 30 at 292 Jose Abad Santos, Little Baguio, San Juan. Call 7246802. Photo shows engineer Wencesco Tan of Wencesco Enterprises (2nd from right) with Nina Huang, Store Specialists, Inc.; Guia Gomez; and Bonifacio Chua, Future Logic Corp.

No. 2 is dumped for No. 3

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

I had a 10-year relationship with a guy who is a very respected businessman in the Middle East. He is also Asian, married and belonging to another religion. He is not that handsome but very intelligent and witty. He always said Filipino women went for old men, especially Westerners, for their money. He said he didn't like a relationship based on money but on love.

When I went home for a vacation, he didn't call me so I called him instead. When I got back here, he said we couldn't see each other much because of arguments with his family. His family knew about us but that was never a problem for him, so this lame excuse surprised me.

I finally learned the reason. He and the Filipina, who usually took our orders at a fast-food chain where we went for years, are now together.

He got her as a secretary in his company. All his employees knew she worked in the counter of a fast-food chain. Now this girl is bragging that he left me for her.

She's young and pretty. Rumor has it she is very good in bed. She has a reputation as a playgirl who goes out only with rich men.

I wrote the man a very long and nasty letter because I hurt like hell. I gave him so many years of my life and now this! I cry every night just thinking about them.

He was thoughtful and caring and I miss him so much. It's been six months now and my desire to see him just gets stronger. But every time I think of the letter I wrote, I am more than sure he will not forgive me. I said so many bad things that surely hurt him. I've been praying that he'll forgive me but I'm scared to even speak to him on the phone.

He is 64 years old and I'm two years his senior. Do you think he'll find it in his heart to forgive me? Am I wrong in wanting him back? Can I ask him to forgive me for sending him that letter? When he received my letter, he asked how I could say those things after all the things he did for me?

I've lost so much weight just thinking of him. My cardiologist is starting to worry.

MERI JAIN

You're asking why at 66 you still feel and think this way. And you're wondering whether you're wrong in wanting him back and third, if he will ever forgive you for writing that very hurtful and nasty letter.

The youth have no monopoly on falling in love. Love affects everyone, young, old, infirm, healthy—everyone. Age is just numbers. Older people were just born earlier, and every one is already getting older, even as we speak. It's tragic that your man got blinded by the girl's youth and her "prowess" in bed. Love is blind. It is also an affliction any human being can contract like colds, fever, hiccups, pimples, hemorrhoids.

If he is what you say he is, how long before he notices this girl's "addiction" to his wallet? And how long before he falters and experiences "power failure" sexually? And, the most tragic—how long before the girl leaves him for someone better now that her stature has improved having moved from manning a fast-food counter to gracing an affluent bedroom. Let him savor his last fleeting moments of youth. The so-called summer of his existence is in its last rays of sun and he knows he is fast entering the bleak landscape of autumn. That is a crisis... and a cruel reality for some men.

As for now, I suggest you cry your heart out and let the tears wash away your torments. Just don't expect to develop amnesia immediately. It

NO. 2/D4

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No. 2 is dumped. . .

From page D3

will take a long while for the wound to heal as there will not be many men to give you solace and make you forget him. Truth to tell, you've reached that very vulnerable age when men look at women more as part of the furniture and not of romance.

Look at it as liberation time, independence day or rebirth for you. It will be hard, it will be anguish, it will be hell—you will get sick, depressed, suicidal—before it gets better. Make a conscious attempt to erase anything associated with him. Instead of picturing him, remember something horrible or hurtful he did or said to you.

As to whether he will forgive you for your letter, I suggest you apologize by stating simply and clearly why you wrote it. He should understand he hurt you first. Did he think you had a wooden heart? He gave you a song and dance about the girl instead of telling you outright that your relationship was over. That was cowardly and cruel.

He's not into you anymore and however memorable your years together were, they're over, kaput, finished. To look back and whine and cry over it will only bring rot and decay and death to your psyche. March on and let time effect the change. Nobody should ever be a loser in this sometimes foolish game we call love. Don't make your life any shorter.

And last but not least, if he was unfaithful to his wife, what made you think, he wouldn't be unfaithful to you, too?

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

Jolly Nick visits schools

IF YOU THINK SCHOOL IS COOL, wait till Nickelodeon takes over. Ten schools around Metro Manila open their gates for the biggest slime invasion ever because "Nick Takes Over Your School" is back.

"Nick Takes Over Your School!" is a program dedicated to promoting fun, sportsmanship, team spirit and physical challenge among grade-school students.

Nick, taking over schools until November, will invade St. Paul College in Pasig City, Kostka, Southville International School, Colegio San Agustin, St. Scholastica's College and San Beda College and De La Salle-Zobel.

If you want Nickelodeon to visit your school, tell us why and we just might. E-mail nickster@nick-asia.com. Do not forget to write your name, age and the name of your school.

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Getting to Know Fiber

Q: What is dietary fiber?
A: Dietary fiber is a complex carbohydrate found in plants that, when ingested, is not digested but excreted from the body.

Q: Why is fiber important in my diet?
A: Fiber is important because it offers a lot of health benefits: lowers blood cholesterol, helps regulate blood sugar levels, helps control body weight, prevents constipation and promotes bowel regularity

Q: Where can I get fiber?
A: Fruits and vegetables are great sources of fiber. It can also be obtained from wheat, barley, rye, corn and rice, and other whole-grain foods. However, there are also readily-available fiber supplements in the market, like FiberMate, to help augment your daily fiber requirement.

Q: What is Fibermate and how does FiberMate work?
A: Fibermate is a dietary fiber supplement containing psyllium, one of the best sources of dietary fiber. When dissolved in water and ingested, it becomes a gelatinous mass and swells up to 20 times its volume. It traps toxins and harmful residues and flushes them out together with the stool.

Q. How does FiberMate help lower blood cholesterol?
A. It binds with the cholesterol-containing bile acids in the gastrointestinal tract and carries them out of the body as waste. This lowers both total and bad cholesterol levels in the blood - thus reducing the risk of heart disease.

Q: How does Fibermate help regulate blood sugar levels?
A: FiberMate slows down the absorption of carbohydrates so blood sugar is prevented from rising steeply after a meal.

Q: How does Fibermate help control body weight?
A: When FiberMate is taken at least 30 minutes before a meal, it creates a feeling of fullness, thus resulting in less food intake. It also contains very minimal calories.

Q: How does FiberMate help in relieving constipation?
A: FiberMate increases the bulk of the stools and stimulates the large intestines to contract. Because stools are softer and bulkier, evacuation is easier, thus minimizing the strain that usually causes hemorrhoids.

Q: How do I take FiberMate?
A: Mix a heaping teaspoon of FiberMate with a glass of cold water and drink immediately. Drink another glass of water right after. Those taking other medicines should drink FiberMate at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after medicine intake. When taking FiberMate, be sure to drink more water (6 to 8 glasses) to maintain fluid balance.

Q: How much Fibermate do I need in a day?
A: In addition to your regular diet, drinking FiberMate 1 to 3 times daily can help you reach the recommended fiber intake of 25 to 35 grams a day*.

*Source: US FDA

Ask your doctor about the many health benefits of fiber.

FiberMate

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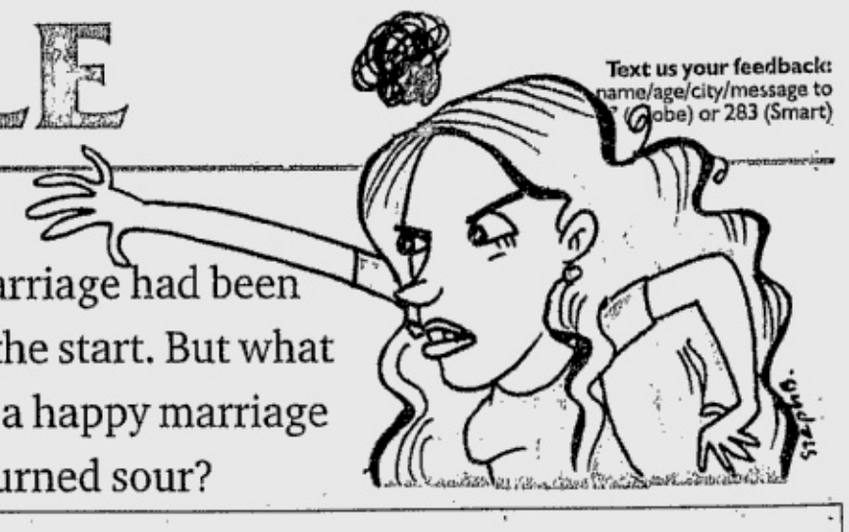

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Annulment means the marriage had been invalid from the start. But what if it had been a happy marriage until things turned sour?

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

I HAVE THIS FRIEND WHO WANTS TO fight a battle. Some years ago she and her husband split up and now he wants an annulment to remarry. I understand that annulments are not too difficult to get these days as long as one can find friends who are willing to swear to anything.

Vicky has no illusions about a reconciliation or anything like that, in fact she wishes Eddie well. But she is adamant about an annulment. An annulment, she tells me, is supposed to prove that the marriage was invalid from the very beginning, therefore, that it never was. To get an annulment, she explains, you've got to testify that you were married under duress, or during some fugue or when you were out of your rocker.

And that's not true, she says, so why should I say that? It was a happy marriage for 10 years. Only after that did it grow bad. Eddie and I loved each other passionately, we had precious times together. We have three lovely children out of the marriage—what becomes of them? Can I push them back, fully grown into my womb and say, "Sorry, you have no place in the world and by the way, I have to give back your surname?"

The last two years before the break up were hell, related Vicky. We just couldn't stand each other. I guess love dies, too. But where was the coercion, the bad faith, the dementia? To be granted annulment I'd have to tell awful lies. It's so nauseous, so hypocritical. I told Eddie a divorce is more honest. At least it tells things the way they are, accepts responsibility for the children's support. I told my husband he or I could go abroad to file for divorce. But Eddie said, No, impossible, he and his girlfriend are good Catholics.

During one of our lunches, our family friend, Louie Ascalon, was questioning why the Catholic church makes it so hard for couples to uncouple. Both the state (for legal separation) and the church (for annulment) charge for these services. The court charges legal fees. The church calls it a "donation." (And maybe it helps if the donation is sizeable).

The annulment process, said our other lunch-mate, Nilda Ocampo, goes faster if the charge is that the husband is gay. Why, asked Louie, does the church want to set gay husbands free so fast? Just so the gay can marry again and make another woman miserable?

Not really, says Nilda. Because with some wives it's okay for a husband to be gay and be a *tatay 'di ba*?

Pass the teriyaki sauce, please.

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Tea

These generous personalities supported the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" co
corneas as well. Because they believed in and put their names for our cause, F

Most importantly, man
Thousands are now card-carrying cornea donors. And hund
Actual retrieval of cornea donations has doubled, increasing th
Financial pledges have increased, not only from direct gift
allowing for more corneal transpl
More people with sight problems have gone to their doctors, facilitatin

We embarked on the "Tears of Hope, Tears of Health" campai
and the power to make a difference. To all w

maraming s

EYE BANK FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPIN

A NON-PROFIT NON-GOVERNMENT HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATION

INQUIRER supports the Tears of Hope, Tears of Health campaign.

tista, Rachelle Ann Go, Amanda Griffin, Inno Sotto, Juan Sarte, Rico Blanco, Kitchie Nadal, Rica Peralejo, Aubrey Miles,
ria, Lea Salonga, Mike Enriquez, Judy Ann Santos, Heart Evangelista, Cheche Lazaro, Jericho Rosales, Albert Martinez,
vera, Gary Valenciano, Lucy Torres-Gomez, Richard Gomez, Ali Sotto and Sharon Cuneta.

rs.

mpaign, posing with happy or hopeful tears, and most pledging their eyes or
ilipinos now know about corneal blindness, the EBFP and what can be done.

y have taken action:
reds nationwide continue to call or email for donor forms.
e amount of available corneal tissue for transplant two-fold.
s, but from the people donating through Visine Refresh,
nt surgery for indigent patients.
g proper diagnosis and education about the hope of restored sight.

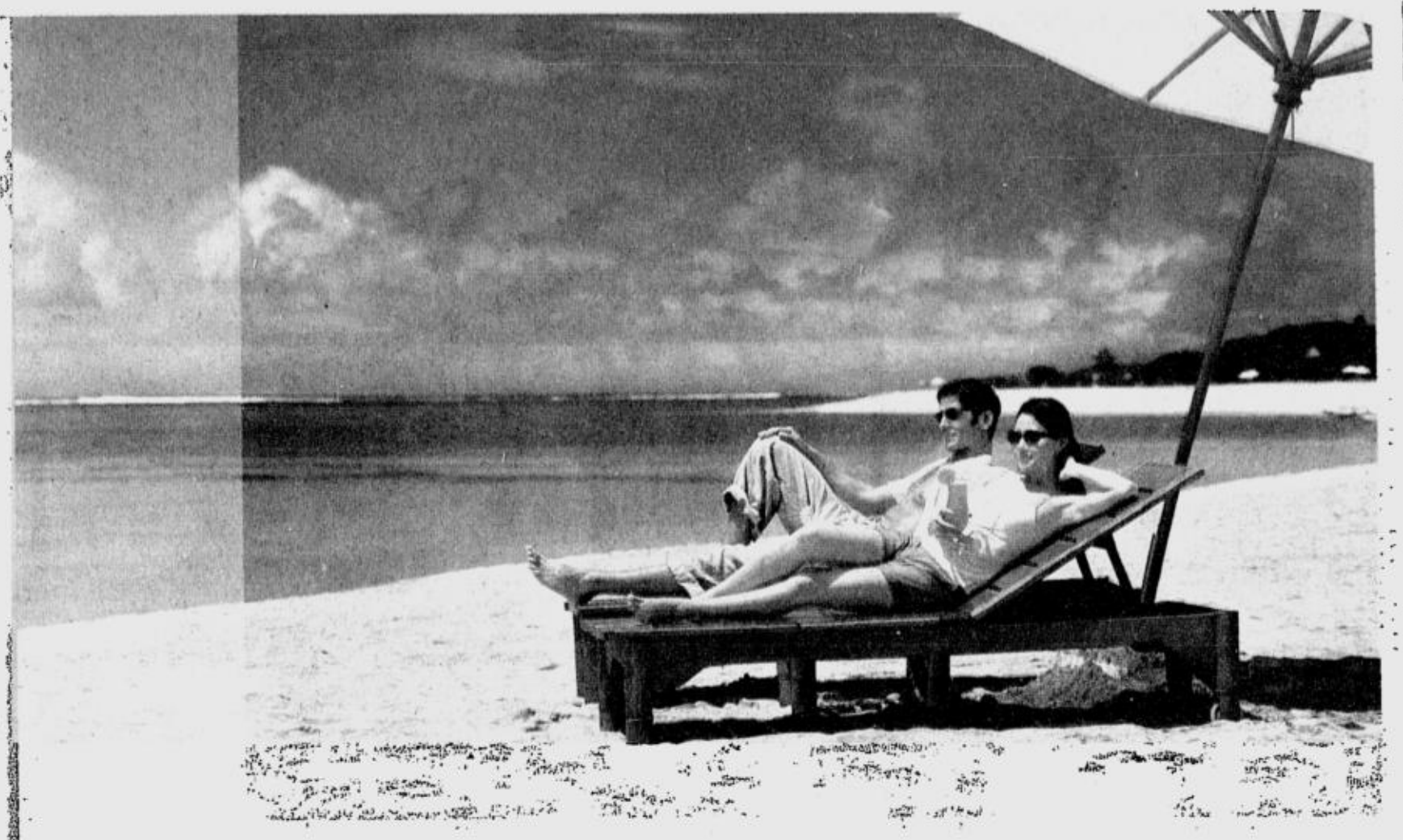
gn with the hope and the belief that Filipinos do have the will
ho have shared in this endeavor, maraming

salamat po!

ES

Visine* Refresh
Pfizer made it!

Asia Miles



Reward yourself with Asia Miles

EARNING. EASY BUSINESS

These days, business takes me around the world. Living out of a suitcase is a demanding lifestyle with lots of travels, client dinners and all-day meetings. But when I fly back home it's nice to know that I can use the Asia Miles I've earned to redeem those everyday things I love so much like shopping for the latest electronic gadget, treating my hardworking sales force to dinner, or even taking a relaxing holiday with my loved ones. The sky truly is the limit with Asia Miles! The range of rewards designed to match anybody's lifestyle is one of the main reasons I instantly signed up as a member.

FLIGHTS OF FANCY

Frequent business travels, and the fact that there are 18 world-class airline partners including Cathay Pacific, British Airways, Qantas and Japan Airlines mean that I can quickly accumulate 15,000 Asia Miles, which is enough to redeem a free return ticket.

LIVING IT UP IN LUXURY

There's nothing nicer than unwinding and being pampered in a five-star hotel after a long-haul flight. Thankfully, Asia Miles has a wide range of world-renowned hotel partners in the programme including Peninsula Hotels, Mandarin Oriental Hotel Group and Shangri-La Hotels & Resorts. The added advantage is that while I relax in lavish and well-appointed hospitality, I also accumulate miles, which I can then redeem for a variety of special rewards!

CHARGE IT

I have never imagined that charging everyday items to my credit card could be so beneficial. With my Citibank Cathay Pacific VISA, I have earned 25,000 Asia Miles to redeem my free return ticket to Hong Kong and have one of the greatest times of my life!

FILL UP ON EARNING POWER

I can even earn Asia Miles simply by hiring cars from Avis, Hertz or SIXT while on business trips. Car rental not only gives me the freedom to enjoy the city sights on my way to important meetings but also lets me earn more miles towards my next dream holiday with my family and other fantastic lifestyle rewards!

MAXIMIZE YOUR ASIA MILES EARNING

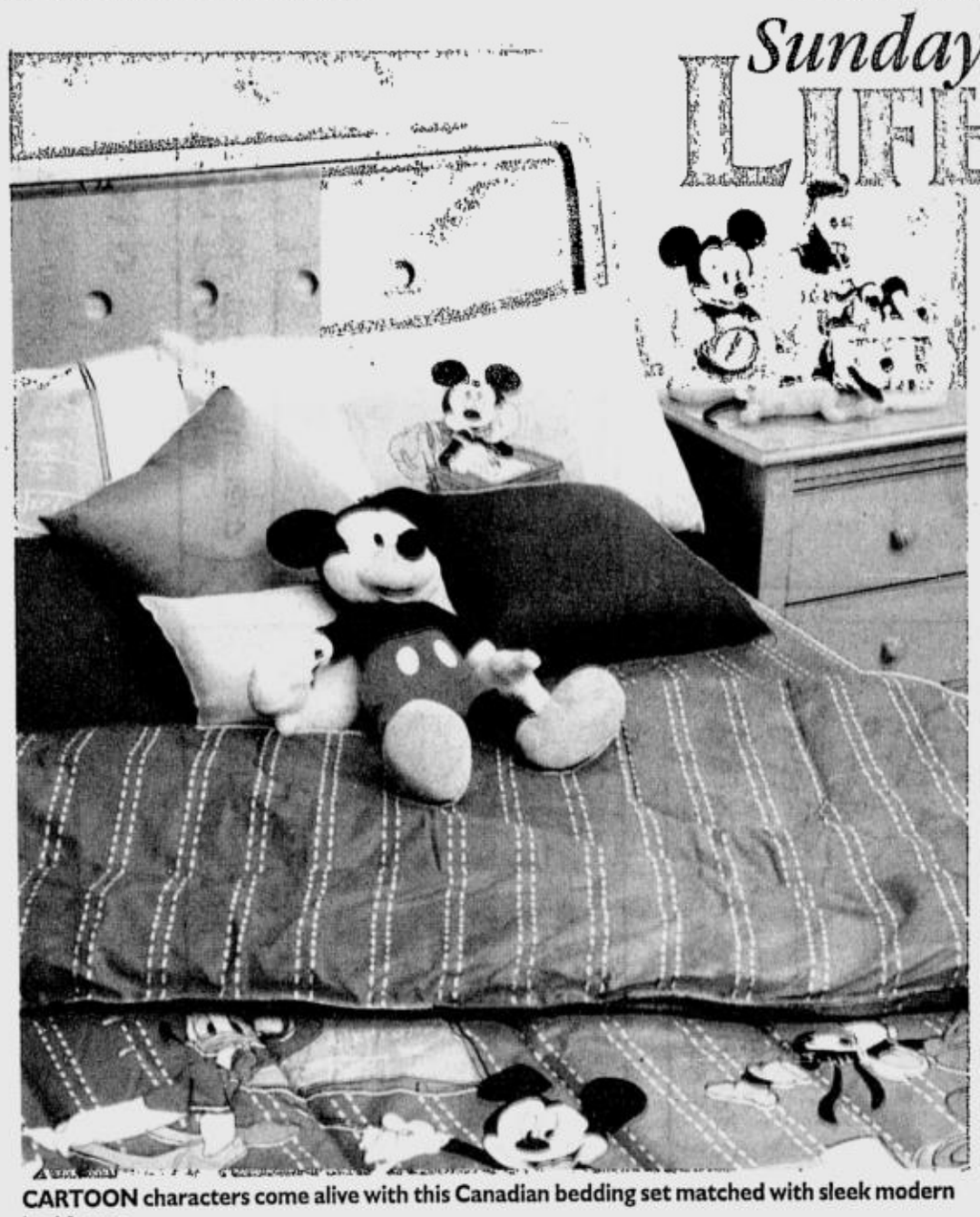
- Recognize and fly with the 18 airline partners of Asia Miles
- Stay at Asia Miles hotel partners around the world
- Spend with your Citibank Cathay Pacific VISA, American Express, HSBC or Standard Chartered Bank credit cards and then convert the rewards points into Asia Miles
- Remember to reserve a car with Avis, Hertz or SIXT before you travel abroad
- Keep an eye for promotions and offers, bookmark www.asiamiles.com in your computer
- Carry your Asia Miles membership card with you everywhere

TREAT YOURSELF

Want the miles? Carry the card and start earning. Log on to www.asiamiles.com for your free membership now!

Asia Miles terms and conditions apply.

Want the miles?
Carry the card.



CARTOON characters come alive with this Canadian bedding set matched with sleek modern bed frame.

PERFECT bed for good sports. Colorful metal bed frame with playful bedding set

Create a special space for your young 'un

IT'S COOL TO grow up in a room surrounded by things related to one's favorite sport, hobby, animal or favorite cartoon characters. SM offers fun and functional ways with kiddie rooms to make them comfortable, private and creative.

Young girls and "tweens" can imagine themselves princesses in rooms with delicate wooden beds covered with candy pink or lush lavender flower bedding. The beds come with matching night tables or have storage spaces underneath for a young girl's treasured possessions.

Colorful oak and metal wooden frames are perfect for active boys.

They can be covered with bed linens with sports, superhero or car-racing themes.

Bunk beds are superb space savers giving kids a larger area for play in their bedrooms. The beds will also help promote bonding between siblings.

The bed frames and bedding sets are available at the Homeworld Department of all SM stores.

SUNSHINE-COLORED comforter and wooden bed frame with matching pullout cabinet underneath

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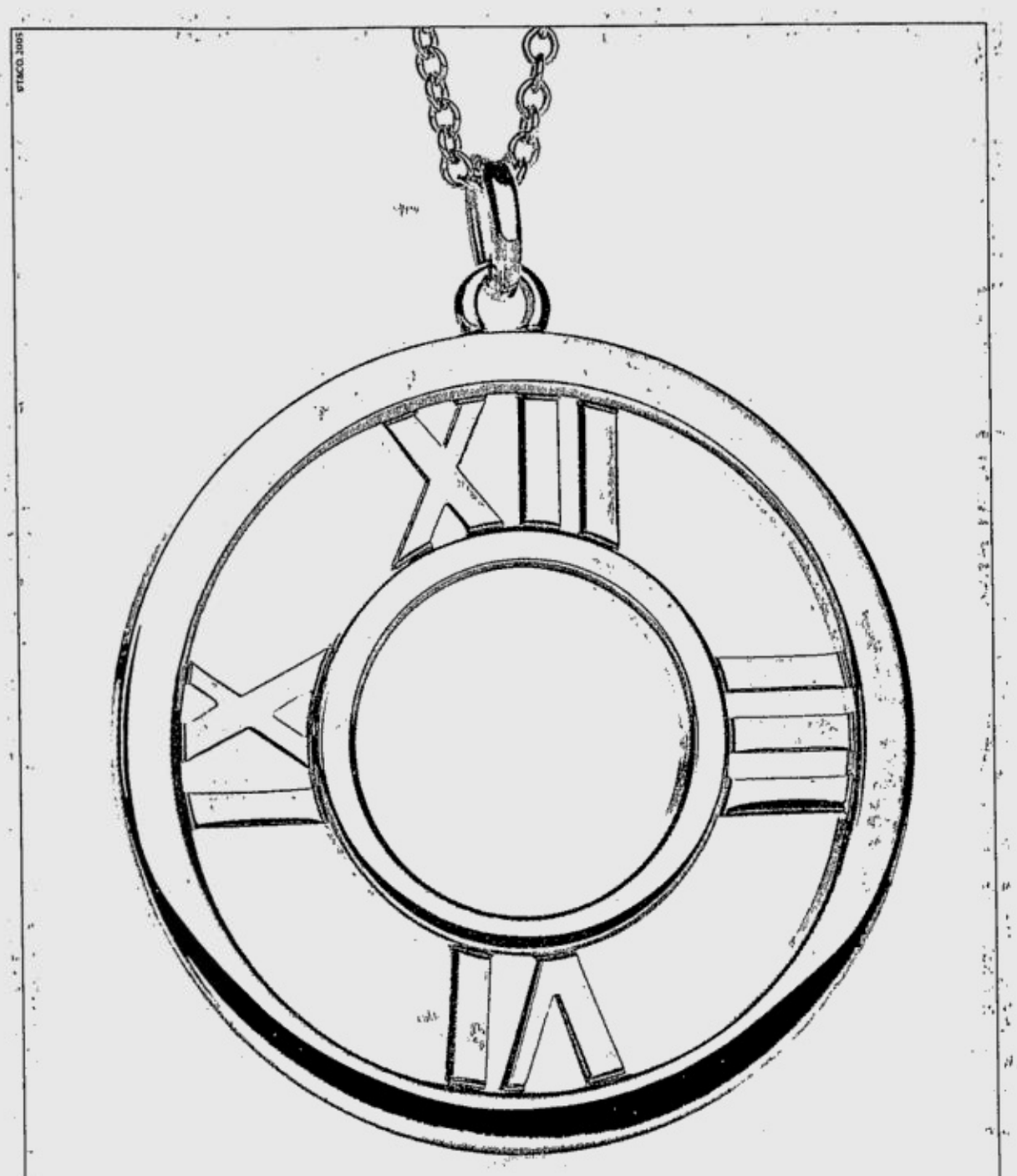

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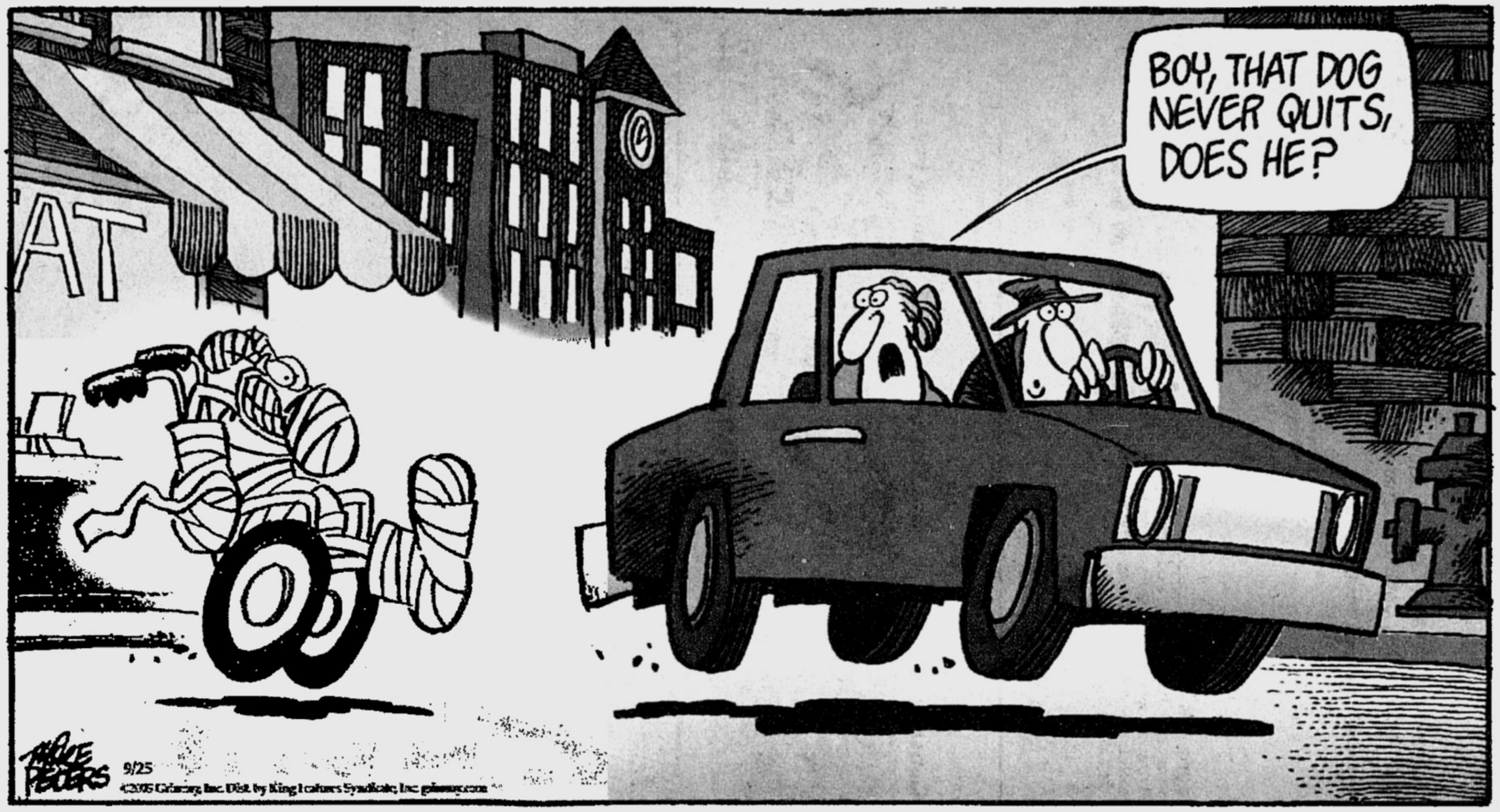

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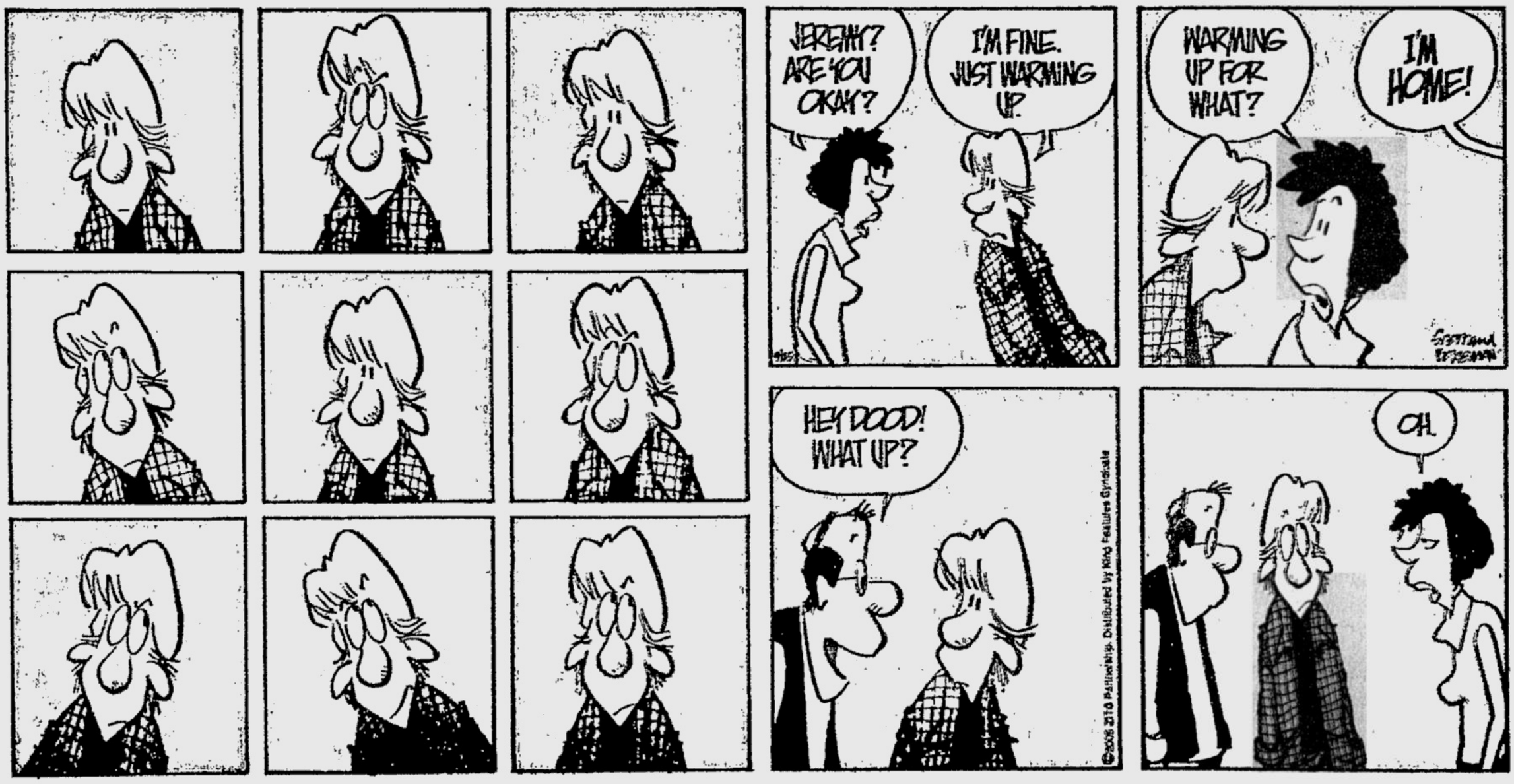
BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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Explore the world of Ragnarok as a merchant – master of profit! Defeat marauding monsters and take their treasure.
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

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Lane Xang Minerals Limited is a subsidiary of the international mining company Oxiana Limited and operates the Sepon Gold & Copper Operation in Savannakhet Province, Lao PDR. We are currently producing 200,000oz of gold per annum from the recently expanded gold plant, as well as 30,000t of copper. Copper production will be increased to 60,000t per annum in 2006 and planning for further expansion of both gold and copper plants is in progress.

We are currently seeking qualified applicants for the following position:

Shift Supervisor/Trainer

Reporting to the Shift Coordinator you will be responsible for:

- Working in conjunction with the Shift Coordinators and the Plant site Training Department to implement Safety and Operational training programs for Lao Trainee Operators
- Working in conjunction with the Operational Group to achieve Production and Budget targets
- Ensuring understanding and implementation of environmental responsibilities to our Lao Trainees
- Consulting widely with relevant site personnel to ensure all LXML operating policies and procedures are followed

Qualifications and Experience

- A minimum of 3 years Supervisory experience within the minerals processing industry, particularly in copper processing
- An ability to demonstrate sound knowledge of hydrometallurgical processes, including Atmospheric Leaching, Pressure Oxidation, Crushing, Grinding and CCD's
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Sound knowledge of the MS Office suite of applications
- An Intermediate Boiler ticket would be advantageous,
- Exposure to Oxygen Plant operations is also an advantage

A willingness to learn about and live within a cross-cultural environment is imperative.

Sensitivity to Lao Culture and the ability to foster ongoing training and development of our Lao employees is essential in all expatriate roles

LXML employees work 12 hours per day, on a roster of 28 days on site, followed by 14 days rest leave, and commute from Australia or other overseas home bases. While on site employees live in a camp environment, with laundry and meal services provided by the Company.

Applications should be emailed to wkelson@lxmlmine.com
by 30th September, 2005.

For further information on our company, please visit our website at www.oxiana.com.au.

LXML
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Ballroom 1 (2nd Flr.),
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Please bring the following requirements:
- Detailed resumé/CV/bio-data
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- Copy of training certificates and professional memberships
- Two (2) work related reference letters
- Certified true copy or NSO notarized birth certificate
- Copy of two (2) IDs - Driver's License, Hospital/School ID
- Copy of valid passport (front page only)
- Copy of updated PRC license
- Copy of PRC rating and certificate
- Copy of CGFNs certificate and/or a U.S. RN License
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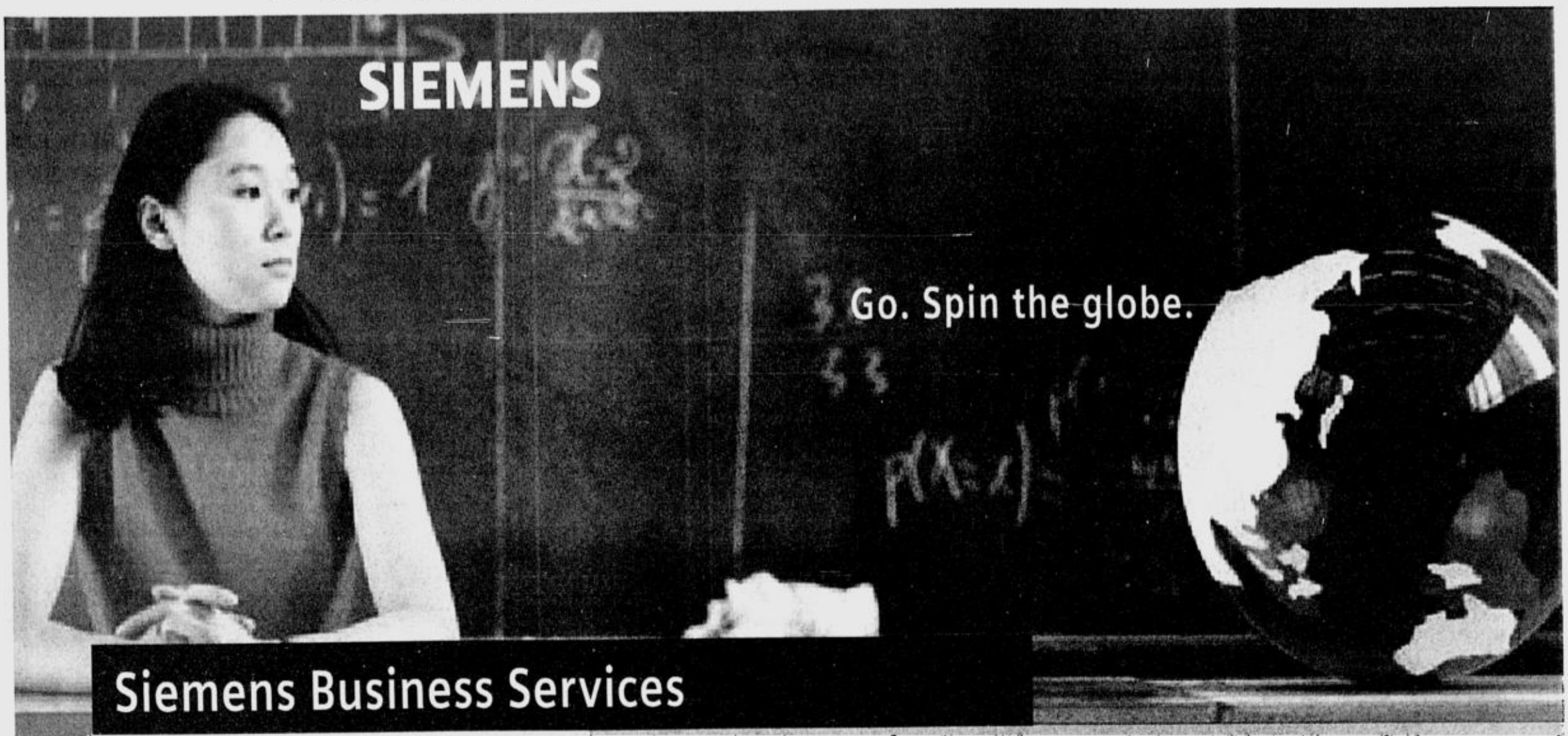

Siemens Business Services

Are You Ready to Delight the Customer?

Siemens Business Services, a daughter company of the Siemens Corporation, is one of the world's leading IT service providers. With a truly global presence we provide service to hundreds of thousands of customers from our service centers in North America, Europe and Asia.

As part of a very exciting period of development we have established our Global Service Desk in Manila to provide English language technical support services to customers of some of the world's best known global companies.

Our local and international management team is now seeking to recruit well motivated candidates for the positions below who want to help us realize our vision of establishing the Manila Global Service Desk as a leader in the delivery of service to our clients.

If you have the talent, energy and commitment to convince us that you should be part of our Team we believe that we can offer a great environment and support you to excel so that we all can Delight the Customer! If a real career, with a solid company sounds like the challenge you have been looking for, we want to hear from you!

We are in need of the following:

Technical Support Representative
- Strong technical background (Hardware, Software & Networking)
- Able to work in different shifts within 24/7 service time
- Good customer service skills
- Excellent command of spoken English

IT Support Supervisor
- 3 years hands-on experience in any of the following: Windows NOS; LAN/WAN administration, server administration, switch/router; telephony (preferably HiCom/HiPath PABX); database and applications administration; desktop/Help Desk support
- Strong decision-making, team leadership, coaching, motivating and people management skills
- Working knowledge of cost-benefit analysis

IT Support Staff
- 3 years experience in PC technical support, client-server environment systems, LAN/WAN and PABX administration

Q.A. Specialist
- Advanced level of computer literacy on Hardware and Software
- Excellent command of written and spoken English
- Call Center or Customer Services experience
- Excellent telephone manners and communications skills
- Knowledge of training needs analysis and content development
- Able to work in different shifts within 24/7 service time

Technical Trainer
- 1 year experience in delivering and organizing training, teaching and development in the following technologies: Microsoft operating systems and hardware, networking, customer service, telephone, and Help Desk/Call Center skills
- Help Desk/Call Center background

MIS Specialist (Workforce Analyst)
- 1 year experience in Workforce Management in a Call Center
- Background in workforce planning/forecasting/reporting
- Strong mathematical orientation and analytical thinking
- Bachelor's degree in Applied Mathematics, Computer Science or Software Engineering

Soft Skills Trainer
- 1 year experience in delivering and organizing training in customer service; American geography and culture, English proficiency and accent neutralization
- Can handle language evaluation

Process Analyst
- 2 years experience in a Call Center responsible for Business Process design, release and implementation including end-to-end documentation
- Strong analytical thinking, coordination, research, communication and follow-up skills
- Proficiency in MS Office applications such as Excel, Word, Visio, PowerPoint, Project, Access and familiarity with CMS and CRM systems
- Background in qualitative initiatives such as Six Sigma, ISO, EFQM, ITIL will be an advantage

Program Support Officer
- At least 1 year project management experience
- Proficiency in MS Office applications including Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Project
- Good command of spoken and written English
- Strong attention to detail, relationship management and networking skills

Bring or send your resume to:

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We are in urgent need of competitive and driven individuals for the following positions:

CHANNEL MANAGER
Minimum requirements
- Graduate of Finance, Economics, Accountancy or any business course
- With at least 3 years successful management experience preferably in the Education sector
- Must have strong financial and analytical skills
- Possesses a strong sense of integrity, confident and results-oriented

CORPORATE PLANNING MANAGER
Minimum requirements
- Graduate of Finance, Economics, Accountancy or any business course (MBA an advantage)
- At least 5 years experience in corporate planning specifically in the development and/or preparation of financial forecast and corporate performance management systems and reports

NETWORK PLANNING MANAGER
Minimum requirements
- Graduate of Finance, Economics, Accountancy or any business course
- With strong analytical skills and experience in Financial Planning
- Excellent oral and written communication skills

COURSEWARE SPECIALIST
Minimum Requirements
- Graduate of Bachelor in Elementary or Secondary Education or its equivalent experience
- Must be familiar with courseware development
- Must be able to create lesson plans/modules
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills and able to meet tight deadlines

FINANCIAL AUDITOR
Minimum Requirements
- Graduate of BS Accountancy with at least 1 year experience as auditor
- Must be familiar in all areas of Accounting
- Willing to travel

COPYWRITER
Minimum requirements
- Graduate of Communication Arts or Advertising
- With at least 2 years experience as a copywriter in an advertising agency
- Must be highly creative, resourceful, unconventional thinker and able to meet tight deadlines

CATEGORY OFFICER
Minimum requirements
- Any Bachelor's Degree with specialized fields related to Marketing, Category/Product Management or Business Management
- Proficient in oral and written English

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICER
Minimum requirements
- Graduate of Masscom Marketing or Advertising
- Preferably with existing media contacts and events management skills
- Proficient in oral and written English

Applicants may send their Resume, Transcript of Records & 2x2 photo to:
Human Resources and Administrative Services
The STI Headquarters
6th Floor Philippines First Bldg.
6764 Ayala Ave., Makati City

Or e-mail the requirements to: ldiego@stihq.net

Applicants for positions not listed above may also send their Resume for future reference.

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PROJECT OFFICER

The **Project Officer, Child Protection** will be responsible for planning, management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of activities for protection of children who are vulnerable to or victims of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation. Also, serves as the focal point for strengthening community-based approaches to prevention and protection, capacity building of professionals and service providers, improving protective services for child victims, advocacy, policy planning, data collection and monitoring systems on child abuse, exploitation and trafficking.

Selection Criteria
- Advanced university degree in social sciences or related fields.
- At least five years' of responsible work at national level programming and field implementation and social development work.
- Strong analytical, management, organization, coordination, negotiation, communication, and advocacy skills.
- Ability to work in an international and multi-cultural environment.
- Knowledge of computer applications.
- Full mastery of English and Filipino, both oral and written.

IT ASSISTANT

The **Information Technology (IT) Assistant** provides technical, operations and procedural support for all computer-related equipment and end-user services in the implementation, maintenance and improvement of information management, systems, procedures and activities of the office.

Selection Criteria
- University degree in electronics and communications engineering, computer engineering, computer science, or information technology.
- At least five (5) years experience on end-user support, troubleshooting, networks, Internet/intranet, firewall, QoS, telecommunications, and systems support.
- Advanced computer skills in technical and administrative works: computer setup and troubleshooting in Windows XP/2003 environment, LAN/WAN, Lotus Domino/Notes, Sybase, or any ERP system. Preferably from a multinational work setup.
- Preferably with programming skills. Industry certification advantage.
- Fluency in English and Filipino languages, both oral and written.

DRIVER

The **Driver** operates and maintains the assigned UNICEF vehicle. Also, responsible for the day-to-day maintenance, performs minor repairs and arranges for other repair ensures that the vehicle is kept clean, and provides assistance at the airport to arriving/departing staff and visitors. Post may require exposure to long periods of driving, lifting bags/packages, and the usua weather and traffic risks.

Selection Criteria
- Primary education; valid driver's license.
- Two year's work experience as a driver with safe driving record.
- Knowledge of driving rules and regulations and skills in minor vehicle repair.
- High level of alertness and knowledge of protocol formalities. Ability to work in an international environment.
- Fluent in English and Filipino.

Please send your application letter and latest curriculum vitae before ***October 9, 2005*** *to:*

The HR UNIT
UNICEF Manila, 31/F Yuchengco Tower
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Graduate of any HR related courses or psychology

Network Engineer/ Administrator
Male/ Female, with good command of English;
Proficient in Networking Tech., TCP/IP, Web, DNS, Email;
windows 2000/ 2003 server, SQL server, ASP, PHP;
working knowledge in Linux a plus;
LAN/ WAN integration and implementation.
Compensation: commensurate with experience

Send your Resumés and transcript of records to
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ACCOUNTING CLERK

1. The candidate/person we are looking for must have at least two (2) years experience in General Accounting
2. She must be computer literate (word/excel) and proficient in Accounting software
3. She must have pleasing personality and well-organized
4. She must able to work under pressure

Interested applicants may apply in person at NO KA OI (Phils.) Int'l. Inc., Unit 708 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Look for Ms. BENI R. ARCILLAS. Please bring complete requirements.

NO KA OI (Philippines) International Incorporated
Termite & Pest Control Services
WANTED IMMEDIATELY

OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR

1. The candidate/person we are looking for must possess/have the supervisory experience needed to lead/control group of field technicians.
2. He must be computer literate (word/excel), can drive 4 wheel drive vehicle (must possess drivers license)
3. He must have strong personality and good in oral & written communications skills.
4. He must be willing to work on flexible time schedules.

Interested applicants may apply in person at NO KA OI (Phils.) Int'l. Inc., Unit 708 Richville Corporate Center, 1314 Commerce Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Look for Ms. BENI R. ARCILLAS. Please bring complete requirements.

NEC

NEC Telecom Software Philippines Inc.

Empowered by Innovation

NEC Telecom Software Philippines, Inc. (NSP) has an immediate need for:

SENIOR SOFTWARE ENGINEER

The Work:

Develop distributed software components and application packages to support advanced telecommunication systems. Use C++ and Java to incorporate state-of-the-art technologies for software engineering including XML, CORBA, UML, Java Swing, etc. We provide systematic and intensive training in fundamental and specialized technologies. All our projects are for foreign customers, and there are regular opportunities to travel and train abroad.

The Ideal Candidate:

- Graduate of any computer related course (B.S. degree)
- Has several years experience programming in C, C++, Java or other general purpose programming languages
- Has demonstrated capacity to apply software techniques to team projects
- Has independent ability to acquire and apply software development technologies
- Good team player; With strong organizational and leadership skills

Qualified applicants may e-mail their application letter, resume w/ 2X2 photo, and photocopy of TOR on or before September 30, 2005 to:

jobs@ntsp.nec.co.jp

(Please type "Senior Engineer" in subject domain of e-mail)

Rexroth
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GERMAN HYDRAULIC AND PLANT SERVICE, INC.

We are a well established and growing company which represents, distributes and services products of one of the world leading manufacturer of Industrial Mobile Hydraulic as well as the exclusive distributor of Internormen Filter Technology Products in the Philippines.

As part of our 2005 expansion we are in **immediate** need of aggressive dynamic individuals with the following qualifications for the following position.

SALES ENGINEER – Male

> Four (4) yr. College graduate of Mechanical or Industrial Engineering or related course;
> Presentable, hardworking and possessing a strong desire to succeed in the field of selling or related marketing, frequent traveling, meeting and winning people, result-oriented; with a good track record, expanding accounts and capable of making effective and required sales target;
> Must have good English and verbal communication skills & computer literate in MS Office
> 3 – 5 years Selling Experience on Hydraulic Products, Filter Products and/or Industrial Equipment will be an added advantage, preferably with established relationship in Cement, Mining, Steel & Alu, Construction, Agriculture and Food, Canning Industry and Power Plants;
> Competent in making groups sales & technical presentations;
> Must posses a valid driver's license;

SERVICE ENGINEER – Male

> With the minimum 3-5 years experience in maintenance / repair / trouble shooting of Hydraulic systems, diagnostic skills and background in Electrical installation work;
> Can read and able to interpret Hydraulic and Electrical Diagrams;
> Highly motivated, assertive and hardworking and can work under minimum supervision;
> Must possess a valid driver's license and willing to do field work;
> At least a graduate of Technical course (Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial)

For the right person this position has potential for future growth.

To the qualified applicants, we offer the following:

> Competitive Salary, Allowance, Commission for Sales
> Local and International training
> Career Growth

Interested applicants are requested to send or hand-carry their resume, detailed work experience, latest ID photo, school and employment credentials at:

Unit 2 Southway Building
Yakal corner Mayapis Street
San Antonio Village, Makati City

UNITED PHILIPPINE LINES, INC.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPBOARD CAREER OPPORTUNITY

ASST COOKS/ PANTRY
23-32 yrs old. Male, at least 2-3 years experience in hotel or fine dining restaurants. Must be knowledgeable in the preparation of international cuisine.

FRONT DESK ATTENDANTS
22-35 yrs old, Male/Female, must have 2 years experience in front desk operations of 3-5 star hotel/resorts, knowledgeable in hotel operating system.

BAKER/PASTRY COOK
23-40 yrs old, Male, at least 2-3 years experience in pastry and bread making in a hotel or reputable restaurant/bakeshop.

WINE STEWARD
23 – 40 yrs old, must have 2 years wine experience in hotel or fine dining restaurants. Knowledgeable on wine production and varieties.

UNITED PHILIPPINE LINES, INC.
Website: www.uplines.net

Call HR Department - Tel: 527-7491 to 94 or visit Plaza Santiago Building, Sta Clara St. Intramuros Manila (fronting Fort Santiago)

POEA Accreditation No. 24788-16
(ABSOLUTELY NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED)

AN ENTREPRENEUERIAL AND OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

HEAD OF MARKETING

The primary function is to organize and manage a nationwide sales network operating in over 30 branches and to deliver the sales volume required from the organization. You will also be responsible for monitoring and collecting on all accounts.

- Very good and very fast in organizing a sales group operating nationwide
- Must be able to handle a multi-channel distribution network
- Will carry a wide array of products both tangibles and intangibles
- Must be able to set up both the sales organization and the required sales support units
- Extensive experience in personal care and health care products are a plus
- Must be self-driven, highly results-oriented, skilled in dealing with people, and entrepreneurially oriented
- Must have held a senior executive level marketing position for at least 3 years with an impressive track record in sales
- Male or female 40 to 50 years of age

REGIONAL SALES HEADS

Primary function is to organize and manage a sales network to operate over several provinces/regions and to deliver the required sales volume. You will also be responsible for monitoring and collecting on all accounts.

- Must be able to quickly organize a sales group that can operate in several provinces/regions
- Must be able to handle a multi-channel distribution network
- Must be able to operate independently in his area of responsibility
- Must be able to handle both sales and sales support functions for his territory
- Must be self-driven, highly results-oriented, skilled in dealing with people, and entreperneurially oriented
- Must have held a senior manager position for at least 1 year with an impressive track record in sales
- Male or female 30 to 50 years of age
- Regions to be covered are North and Central Luzon, South Luzon, Visayas based in Cebu, and Mindanao based in Cagayan De Oro City and Davao City

Package includes Salary or Allowances, Overriding Commissions, Performance Bonuses, Transportation and Representation Allowances, and the usual corporate benefits. In addition there will be an opportunity for entrepreneurship through an "equity ownership" program depending on performance.

The opportunity package we offer is designed to provide a continuing and long-term involvement and the opportunity to own part of the company under a personally designed package.

Interested and qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume in MS Word format plus a recent photograph by e-mail to recruitment_hr_mails@yahoo.com or mail to Makati P.O. Box 3766 on or before October 10, 2005.

P. J. LHUILLIER
GROUP OF COMPANIES

P. J. Lhuillier Group of Companies, a dynamic business company engaged in financial services, retail and trade, and sports recreation, inviting qualified and competent candidates to fill in key positions in the organization.

AUDITOR (Luzon and Visayas)
- Graduate of B.S. Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant CPA
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

BRANCH (Pawnshop) PERSONNEL (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- Graduate of any business-related course or any four (4)-year college course with at least 6 units in Management
- With or without working experience
- With pleasing personality and of good moral character
- Computer literate

DRIVER / MESSENGER (Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao)
- At least 2nd year college/Auto Mechanic, Automotive or any four (4) year college course
- Punctual, dependable and trustworthy
- With professional driver's license
- Has basic skills in vehicle troubleshooting

Interested individuals may send or handcarry their resume recent 2x2 photo, and photocopy of Transcript of Records, Diploma and certificate of graduation, NBI Clearance, Barangay Clearance, Letter of application to:

MANPOWER PLANNING AND RECRUITMENT DEPARTMENT
Personnel & Organizational Development Division
Corporate Services Group Satellite Office - Cebu
Mr. Lodegario T. Rotlen
Cebuana Lhuillier Pawnshop Labangon 1 Branch
A. Lopez St., Labangon, Cebu City

NEEDED
Spanish Speaking Office Staff

- Male or Female
- College Graduate
- Fluent in English & Spanish (spoken and written)
- Knowledge in international trading preferred but not required
- Work experience preferred
- Willing to travel abroad

Please submit comprehensive resumé with picture to:

c/o Lifestyle Tableware Corporation
Unit 907 Cristina Tower, 325 H. Javier St.
Oranbo, Pasig City or
Email: lifestyletableware@yahoo.com

Immediate Hiring
SALES CLERK
Female, single; 18-25 years old
College level with pleasing personality
Apply in person between 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM at:
#21 Gilmore Avenue, New Manila, Q.C.
(near St. Paul College QC) • Tel. No. 722-70-63

Accounting Clerk
Female not more than 30 years old, Accounting Graduate with at least 3 years experience in the same capacity,
With knowledge in cost accounting, bookkeeping, inventory and computer literate

2 Office Clerk
Female not more than 30 years old, College degree holder, Proficient in MS Word, Excel and common software application
With Pleasing Personality and Customer Service Skills

Product Manager
Male or Female with at least 2 years sales experience, with solid leadership traits and skills,
Result-oriented, self-confident, with positive attitude and a natural team leader

Foot Spa Attendant / Therapist
Male or Female with pleasing personality, good communication skills

Sales Consultants
Male or Female, willing to do field sales,
Earn P2,000/week to P30,000/month

Internet Marketer (Call Center Operator)
Work from home, must have own computer with internet connection. We pay basic salary plus commission. No age limit.

Submit resume with 2x2 photo to:

Mary Del Molina
AIGS Marketing Corporation
Suite 1408 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel no. 687-3016 and 687-3018
e-mail:marydel_aigsph@yahoo.com.ph

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Build your career with us!

JUNIOR PRODUCT PLANNERS
Male/Female, 22-29 years old. Fine Arts Graduate or other related courses. Creative, proficient in oral and written English. Computer literate, with knowledge in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and Machintosh based flatform.

RESEARCH & COMMUNICATION ASSISTANTS
Female, 22-29 years old. AB English, Mass Communication, Journalism, Advertising graduate or any related courses. Creative & proficient in oral and written English, willing to go on fieldwork for public relations activities. Knowledge in Adobe Photoshop / Illustrator and Photography an advantage.

AUDIT STAFF
Female, 22-25 years old. BSC Accounting graduate with at least 1 year work experience preferably in the field of Audit. Computer Literate.

HUMAN RESOURCES STAFF
Female, 22-30 years old. BS Psychology graduate with at least 1 year work experience in both recruitment and compensation & benefits. Computer Literate.

MERCHANDISERS
Female, 18-25 years old, at least 5'2" in height and at least 2nd yr. college. With pleasing personality, willing to go on field and store assignment.

TELEMARKETERS
Male/Female, 22-30 years old, good communication skills, experience in sales an advantage.

Please submit resume with ID picture and transcript of records to:
Filstar Distributors Corp. 2/F Reliance Center Bldg., #99 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Ugong, Pasig City 1604
Tel. nos.:(632) 671-0555 look for Ms. Ime or Amalia of HRD or e-mail to: iptagudar@filstar.com.ph

JOB Market Your career might only be a click of the mouse away.

The Rural Power Project (RPP), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the World Bank, and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the posts of **Solar PV Business Development Specialist, Solar PV Technical Specialist, Mini-grid Specialist, Finance Officer.** The successful candidates will be based at the DOE office in Taguig City.

Solar PV Business Development Specialist

– Contract of employment is valid for one (1) year with a three (3) months probationary period at start-up. He/she will report to the PMO Director.

Duties and Responsibilities:

General Activities

The Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Business Development Specialist will assist participating PV companies and micro-finance institutions (MFIs) to ensure that the RPP project objectives with respect to PV are met. The primary responsibility of the Specialist is to help improve the business and market capability of the participating companies and financing institutions. The Specialist will also provide technical backstopping and assistance to the DOE-RPP Project Management Office (PMO).

Specific Activities

1. Build and maintain relationships with the accredited PV companies, microfinance organizations and others;
2. Interacts regularly and intensively with PV companies to encourage their active participation in the project and to ensure they meet their sales targets;
3. Manages activities that will identify and motivate additional and non-traditional distribution channels for solar PV in rural areas;
4. Promotes the Market Development Support Facility (MDSF) to the PV companies and MFIs and assist the PMOs in its implementation and monitoring;
5. Conducts needs assessment to determine non-company specific capacity building and information dissemination activities that the PMO should organize;
6. Strengthens MFI capabilities to provide credit for solar PV purchases by rural households;
7. Supports PMO in management and organizational activities associated with the PV component; and,
8. Submits of timely and accurate quarterly and semi-annual reports, brief monthly accomplishment report and other reports as needed

Qualifications :

1. Education – Post-graduate degree in a relevant field (e.g. business, marketing, finance, management).
2. Experience
   a) At least three years experience, and demonstrated success in business development, financing and marketing, especially rural consumer durable products and services, and marketing;
   b) Expertise, with minimum three years experience, in providing business development advisory/consulting services to private enterprises and financial institutions;
   c) Experience in business developing distribution networks for consumer durable goods in rural areas and micro-financing would be a particular advantage
   d) Experience in renewable energy business development would be useful additional qualities
3. Others
   a) Demonstrated ability to function independently with minimal supervision and ability to take initiative will be necessary
   b) Excellent reading, writing and speaking skills in the English Language; Skilled in accounting, statistical or related areas; Knowledgeable in using MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, business/accounting software
   c) Ability and interested to travel throughout the Philippines, including in rural areas

Solar PV Technical Specialist

– Contract of employment is valid for one (1) year with a three (3) months probationary period at start-up. He/she will report to the PMO Director.

Duties and Responsibilities:

General Activities

The Solar PV Technical Specialist will have lead responsibility for all technical aspects of the PV component implementation in order to ensure quality and service requirements of the project are met.

Specific Activities

1. Maintains and updates technical specifications for solar PV systems as well as other renewable energy systems to be used in the Project;
2. Coordinates accreditation and certification of systems/products (including design verification and manufacturers self compliance and technical compliance certificates with Project requirements) with solar companies;
3. Ensures compliance of project participants with applicable environmental and social safeguards stipulated by the Project;
4. Inspects national testing centers capable of PV components and systems;
5. Establishes relationship with other PMOs;
6. Designs and executes the Consumer Protection and Compliance Monitoring Services;
7. Identifies and prepares conceptual designs of other community and consumer-level PV and other renewable energy applications; and
8. Monitors and reports technical performance of these new systems;
9. Develops and maintains databases for solar PV subcomponent;
10. Submits quarterly and semi-annual reports and monthly accomplishment reports; quarterly updates of database information; other reports directed by the DOE-PMO Head

Qualifications:

1. Education – A degree or equivalent in science/technology/engineering, with preferably a postgraduate qualification in Engineering, Business Administration or Marketing
2. Experience
   At least five (5) years of professional work experience, preferably with exposure to rural electrification and renewable energy technologies- solar PV, micro-hydro, etc.
3. Others
   a) In-depth understanding of PV systems needs assessment and design
   b) Ability to manage contractors and consultants proactively and resolve issues to achieve desired results
   c) Excellent public relations, presentation and report writing skills in English
   d) Strong conceptual skills and ability to design and implement information systems, management schemes, procedures and data collection/reporting forms

Mini-grid specialist

– Contract of employment is valid for one (1) year with a three (3) months probationary period at start-up. He/she will report to the PMO Director.

Duties and Responsibilities

General Activities

The Mini-grid specialist shall assist in the implementation of activities of the Mini-Grid Sub-Component of the Project.

Specific Activities

1. Coordinates and monitors the Mini-Grid Sub-Component implementation; ensuring that all activities shall be executed as planned on a timely manner;
2. Provides technical support, coordination and monitoring various activities related to the operationalization of the QTP program;
3. Provides technical support to the DOE-PMO in the conduct of various coordination activities among DOE, ERC, NPC-SPUG, NEA, DUs, LGUs, and other stakeholders in the implementation of the market packages;
4. Assists the DOE-PMO in the establishment and management of the Project Preparation Grant;
5. Develops TORs, EOIs and RFPs to specific capacity building and institutional strengthening activities;
6. Provides technical assistance in the design and implementation of various marketing and investment promotion activities;
7. Provides technical inputs to the Project's mid-term review and progress reports;
8. Consolidates all existing database and available information and conducting desk-study socio-economic profiling of certain areas declared by DOE as unviable and open to QTP; and
9. Fills data and information gaps on such areas to enable development of new market packages;
10. Fulfills other tasks and functions necessary to successfully implement the Mini-Grid Sub-Component of the Project;
11. Submits quarterly and semi-annual reports, monthly accomplishment reports and quarterly updates of database; information kits of prospective market packages for use in soliciting EOIs.

Qualifications:

1. Education – A degree or equivalent in science/technology/engineering, preferably post-graduate in Engineering, Business Administration and/or Economics
2. Experience
   At least five years of professional work experience, preferably with exposure to renewable energy technologies and rural electrification.
3. Others
   a) Ability to assess technical assistance needs and draft terms of reference for procurement of consultant services and apply World Bank procurement guidelines
   b) Ability to manage contractors and consultants proactively and resolve issues to achieve desired results
   c) Strong conceptual skills and ability to design, develop and implement systems, schemes, procedures and forms
   d) Excellent public relations, presentation and report writing skills; satisfactory skill in the use of Microsoft Windows, Microsoft Tools and Microsoft Project
   e) Thorough knowledge of World Bank disbursement procedures, reporting formats and related fiduciary responsibilities

Finance Officer

– Contract of employment is valid for one (1) year with a three (3) months probationary period at start-up. He/she will report to the DOE's Financial Management Services and UNDP-DSSC.

Duties and Responsibilities:

General Activity

The Finance Officer shall perform the activities identified by the DOE-PMO, in executing the various components/ activities of the Project, with particular reference to management of financial, accounting and reporting.

Specific Activities

1. Proactive assistance to claimants on grant and subsidy claim documentation;
2. Checks the eligibility and process of payments for GEF grants and Governments subsidy on time; and
3. Obtains replenishments and/or direct disbursements as appropriate from the World Bank and Government;
4. Coordinates with DOE-FMS, UNDP-DSSC, in relation to Government subsidy and GEF grants, respectively, as per agreed accounting formats for reporting purposes;
5. Maintains records of disbursement instructions and accounts of each transaction with supporting documents;
6. Maintains detailed accounts, statistical records and databases in relation to the Project as a whole;
7. Ensures timely completion of annual audits;
8. Performs other tasks and functions as necessary to achieve the objectives of the Project;
9. Submits of financial reports under the GEF Grant Trust Fund Agreement and monthly accomplishment reports

Qualifications:

1. Education – University Degree in Accounting or Finance and a Certified Public Accountant
2. Experience
   Minimum of five (5) years of work experience, preferably in multidisciplinary environment;
3. Others
   a) Thorough knowledge of World Bank disbursement procedures, reporting formats and related fiduciary responsibilities;
   b) Ability to work as a team with fellow officers, consultants and related agencies such as UNDP and DBP-PMO and proactively resolve issues to ensure the smooth flow of funds
   c) With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel and Power Point; working knowledge of integrated and/or specific accounting applications

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

While the Rural Power Project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 7 October 2005. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 7 October 2005.

/21 September 2005

HUAWEI

HUAWEI TECHNOLOGIES PHILS. INC.

Incorporated in 1988, Huawei Technologies is a private high-tech enterprises headquartered in Shenzhen, China. We have now been the largest telecom vendor in China's telecom market and now are quickly becoming a leading player in the global telecom market. We focus on such areas as WCDMA, CDMA2000, NGN, xDSL and data communications. Currently we provide telecom products and solutions for over 300 operators worldwide and 22 of the world's top 50 operators are our customers.

We have 24,000 employees and operate worldwide with nine regions. Our sales in 2004 reached 5.58 billion USD. We invite qualified applicants to join our company in our expansion program.

1. Project Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Planning and controlling of survey, installation, testing, commissioning, material and logistics forwarding including delivery of equipment to site;
- General controlling over engineering activities including exchanging of plans, drawings and other information with customers, approval of equipment layouts and network configuration data;
- Supervision and control over sub-contractors to strictly comply with the relevant conditions of the contract
- Participate in bidding activities, identify implementation requirement from tender document, plan resources and budget as well as make out solution for customer implementation demand and undertake procurement management when necessary.

Requirements

- At least two years' working experience in telecommunication project management.
- At least Bachelor Degree of telecommunication engineering or electronics engineering.

2. CDMA&GSM Marketing or Technical Support Engineer

Main Responsibilities

- Perform pre-sales market exploration, promotion marketing activities, or post-sales project implementation and technical support for GSM/CDMA/3G such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance.
- Provide post-sales technical support to customers through remote and on-site trouble-shooting.
- Provide technical solution and hands-on support on GSM/CDMA/3G.

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area.
- Minimum 1 years of experience dealing with mobile communication network.
- Hands-on skill and knowledge on GSM/GPRS/CDMA network engineering.
- Good communication skills and a team player and able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment.
- Frequent business travels to support projects in other cities will be required.

3. Technical Support Engineer (Switch & Access Network)

Main Responsibilities:

- Perform technical supports such as on-site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance with excellent customer service skills.
- Implement operation & maintenance solution in-time and effectively to fulfill customers' requirement and solve technical issue.
- To construct and maintain up-to-date network information to ensure accurate and sufficient database for maintenance & troubleshooting.

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree or above majoring in Telecommunications, Electronics, Electrical, or related area.
- Minimum 2 years of related systems engineering and network design experience in the telecommunications and/or data communication environment.
- Experience in both a service provider and telecommunication equipment vendor environment preferred.
- Able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment.
- Frequent business travels to support projects in other countries will be required.

4. Service and Software Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- Be responsible for Intelligent Network project implementation, which includes installation and testing.
- Be responsible for Intelligent Network routine maintenance.
- Be responsible for Short Message System project implementation, which includes installation and testing.
- Be responsible for Short Message System routine maintenance.
- Be responsible for service related technical activities.

Requirements:

- A university degree in telecommunications engineering, computer science or above.
- Working on telecom industry for 1 year at least.
- At least 1 year of practical working experience in Unix, working experience in HP-UX, SUN-OS, IBM-AIX
- Knowledgeable in the telecommunication and CCS7 system.
- Knowledgeable in Database system, working experience in Informix , Oracle, Sybase
- Ability to work independently and to build up good customer relations.
- Good Communication skills and ability to work in teams.
- Self-motivated, flexible, enthusiastic and fluent in English both oral and written.
- Must be ready to work under pressure in all kind of working condition
- Must be ready for international project to the other Africa countries.
- Below 28 years

5. Bidding Design Engineer

Main Responsibilities:

- To complete overseas project survey design by making use of engineering design platform
- Provide bidding support to overseas projects in respect of survey design and ensure smooth engineering survey and construction
- Assist in collecting and sorting out information about engineering design, timely report various investigation data and provide fundamental basis for the perfection of project bidding and design information system

Requirements:

- Bachelors degree or above majoring in Electronics, Electrical, Telecommunications, computer or related area.
- At least 3 years of related systems and project engineering experience in the telecommunications environment.
- Experience in both a service provider and equipment vendor environment preferred.
- Excellent communications and interpersonal skills.
- Heavy business travels in the Asia Pacific region will be required.
- Ability to converse in Mandarin will be an added advantage.

6. Service Account Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Service market planning and customer relation planning
- Responsible for the customer service problem solving, customer relationship maintaining & improvement
- Service sale

Requirements:

- Solid experience in telecommunications field (at least 1 year experience in technical support service), prior to more than 1 year experience in international telecom company
- Bachelors degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer science or Electronics or equivalent
- Good presentation, interpersonal, problem solving skills and communication skills
- Excellent command of both written and spoken English
- Less than 35 years old
- Responsible, independent and able to work under pressure

For the successful candidates We offer attractive salary package, training opportunity and long term career prospect.

Please send your comprehensive resume by email stating the applied position, your availability, a current 2x2 photo, present & expected salary to:

MS. CHERRY CIPRIANO
philippines@huawei.com
Huawei Technologies Phils. Inc.

ACCOUNTANT/ACCOUNTING CLERK (3) - BS Accounting graduate, computer literate, female 21 to 35 years old, knowledge in payroll, salary negotiable

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (4) - BS I.T. graduate, female or male 21 to 30 years old, willing to work long hours, negotiable salary

BOOKEEPER (1) - BS Accounting graduate, computer literate, female 21 to 30 years old, salary negotiable

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANCE (1) - Any course related, good communication skills, computer literate, female 21 to 30 years old, salary negotiable

TRAINING ASSISTANT BS Psychology or any related course, good communication skills, female 21 to 30 years old, residing at south area

WAREHOUSE INCHARGE Any course related with experience in warehousing, computer literate, Male 21 to 40 years old, residing at south area

Interested applicants may submit personally their credential at

DIMENSIONAL SERVICE CORPORATION
161 Aguirre Ave . BF Homes
Parañaque City
Tel. # 826-90-21 to 26 look for Ms. Nora Dumpit or Ms. Inah Gerona

YALE ACADEMY
http:// yale-academy.co.kr

IS IN NEED OF

ENGLISH TEACHERS

- W/ teaching experience
- At least college graduate (Preferably English/Education majors)
- Excellent English communication and grammar skills

and look for **Ms. Shameh Paulo**
or e-mail us at haranddy@hotmail.com
19th floor STRATA 2000 Emerald Ave.
Ortigas Center

MANAGERIAL

UNAIDS
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UNODC·ILO·UNESCO·WHO·WORLD BANK

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

VACANCY NO. : 2005/08 - EXT
DATE ISSUED : 25 September 2005
CLOSING DATE: 07 October 2005

POST TITLE	:	Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer
ENTRY LEVEL	:	NO-C
OFFICE AND LOCATION	:	UNAIDS Philippines 31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Ave., Makati City
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT	:	Fixed-Term (2 years - renewable)

The Monitoring and Evaluation Programme Officer will work under the supervision and guidance of the UNAIDS National Country Officer and together with the UN Theme Group on HIV/AIDS in the Philippines. Primary responsibility is to strengthen the Joint UN Programme's contribution to effective national leadership and strategic management of HIV/AIDS country programs. This would be done primarily through supporting the development and strengthening of national systems and national capacity to monitor and evaluate HIV/AIDS situations and responses; and to utilize data for programme planning and implementation.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Support the development and strengthening of national Monitoring and Evaluation systems.
2. Facilitate and support the collation and use of data to inform policy and strategy on HIV/AIDS, including the mobilization and allocation of national and international resources.
3. Linkages with other Units, and inter-tasks:
   The M&E Programme Officer will work closely with the Evaluation Unit, the Country Programming and Liaison Division in Geneva and the Regional Support Team, Asia-Pacific in Bangkok, and will act as a member of the global "virtual team" of M&E officers.
   M&E Programme Officers may be asked occasionally to undertake assignments on behalf of EVA to represent UNAIDS expertise in the area of M&E, to be cleared by the NCO and UN Theme Group and in collaboration with CRD in Geneva.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

Education: Masters or PhD degree in public health, business administration, public administration, management, social sciences, demography, development planning, statistics or academic equivalent.

Professional experience: At least 8 years experience in the development, design, and implementation of monitoring and evaluation systems or program management with significant information management content. Experience with international donors, non-governmental development organizations and/or the UN system would be an advantage.

Functional/technical knowledge: Ability to consolidate information from multiple sources. Demonstrated skill in the formulation, design, development and implementation of monitoring and evaluation frameworks. Able to prepare strategic information for decision makers. Ability to work with basic presentation software, e.g. Microsoft PowerPoint. Ability to achieve consensus and coordination through teambuilding and other methods.

Language: Fluent in English (or in another UN official language depending on the duty station with excellent oral and written English)

Personal Attributes: Strong interpersonal skills, ability to work in cross-cultural environments.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title **on or before 07 October 2005**, and send to:

Human Resources Management Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Kindly note that only completed P11 forms will be reviewed.

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer and invites Filipino nationals to apply for the post. Please note that we will contact only the short-listed candidates.

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GENERAL MANAGER

RISE Microfinance Company
Manila-based

The Responsible Investments for Solidarity and Empowerment (RISE) is a socially responsible microfinance institution that provides loans to MFIs that serve the poor but enterprising individuals in the Philippines. The General Manager will oversee the company's operations upon the direction of the RISE Board of Directors.

The General Manager in coordination with the Board of Directors is responsible for the development of strategies, business plan, directing policies and practices of RISE to ensure set objectives, goals and institutional growth are met.

The General Manager leads the implementation of approved strategy and business plan to ensure the sustainability and profitability of RISE, including identifying and developing relationships with public and private funding institutions with similar interests.

Qualifications

- University degree in Finance, Business Administration, Economics or related course; MBA preferred.
- Minimum five years experience in microfinance preferably managing Grameen Banking operations.
- Demonstrated ability in fund sourcing.
- Strong network/linkages with government and non-government organizations. Able to relate to financial and non-financial institutions.
- Excellent oral and written English communication skills; computer literate.
- Demonstrable capacity and ability in financial analysis and the professional presentation of financial data
- Willing and able to travel in remote areas.

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resumé with personal references via e-mail on or before **October 21, 2005** to:

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3. NBI and Barangay Clearance;
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Interviews will be conducted in any of the following Magsaysay offices depending on the location of applicants:

Manila: Recruitment Center, 520 T.M. Kalaw St. Ermita, Manila
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Printed Resumé, 1 pc. 2x2 picture
Photocopy & Original of NBI Clearance (less than 1 year old)
Birth Certificate & Transcript of Records

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- As a member of our Philippine Infrastructure team located in Manila, work closely with both our Manila and headquarter staff to provide expert technical assistance in the design and implementation of operations in Infrastructure as well as in policy development.
- Carry out responsibilities for a variety of operational tasks (e.g. technical analyses, appraisal and supervision of projects, preparation of sector and country briefings, review of technical specifications of procurement documents, etc.)
- Work closely with the Bank's key counterparts in the sector, providing high quality service and assistance to our clients on all policy and project related issues.
- Liaise with, and provide information, to relevant national and local government units, NGOs, peoples organizations, academic institutions, the private sector, international donor agencies, and other stakeholders on matters related to the Infrastructure Development sector in the country and World Bank assistance in the sector;
- Participate in developing and implementing sector strategy and assist in policy work.
- Participate in missions in area of specialization; provide technical inputs and guidance to counterparts on appropriate scope, technology, costs, etc; prepare terms of reference for project- or sector- related work.

Selection Criteria :
- Master's Degree or higher in public sector management, economics, municipal or civil engineering, urban planning, or other field related to urban development and infrastructure management.
- At least seven (7) years of proven track record in working on infrastructure projects and analytical studies. Familiar with Philippine laws and regulations in the infrastructure sector, including government project approval and supervision procedures. Experience with development and implementation of World Bank or other donor-financed operations is desirable.
- Sector knowledge in at least one of the following areas: transportation; energy; water and sanitation. Expertise in the field of transportation is particularly desirable, though candidates with specializing in other infrastructure sectors are also encouraged to apply.
- Demonstrated ability in managing complicated tasks, particularly in terms of preparing and implementing projects involving multiple stakeholders. Familiar with various aspects of project preparation and implementation, including procurement and governance issues.
- Outstanding interpersonal and networking skills, with a strong understanding of the institutional, social, political and cultural issues in one or more of the Infrastructure Development sub-sectors;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, high degree of adaptability, and ability to work independently, with minimum supervision;
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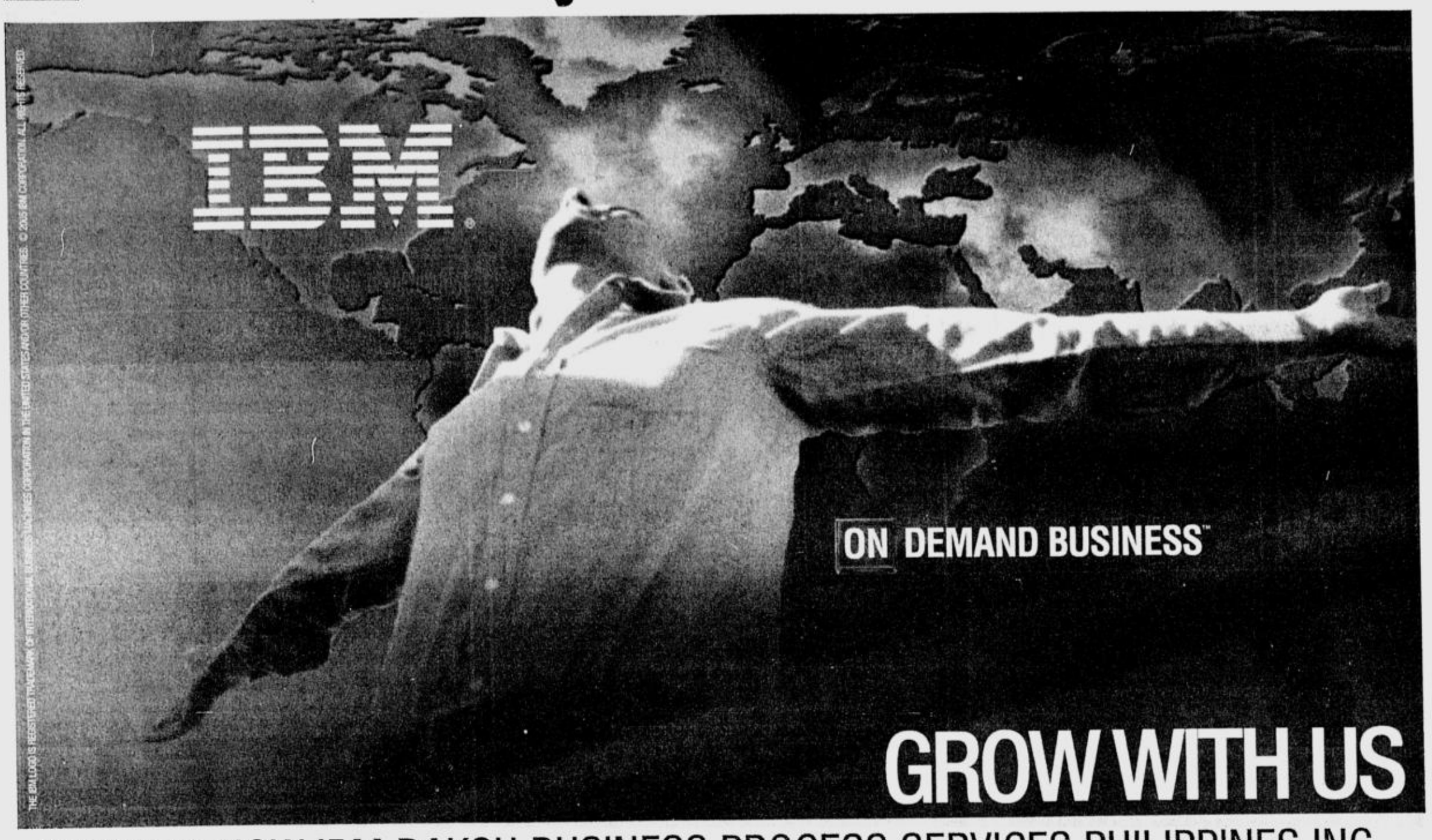

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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

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Is there life after being fired?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR READERS: I'VE RECEIVED many e-mails from people who not only land on their feet after a firing or a layoff, they actually end up in an even better place. I've included a series of success stories below. For more, check out Harvey MacKay's excellent new book "We got fired: And it's the best thing that ever happened to us" (Ballentine, 2004). If you know someone who has recently been let go, encourage them to read Harvey's book or this column for inspiration.

Bernie Marcus was fired as CEO of Handy Dan Home Improvement Center chain. Haven't heard of Handy Dan? You probably have heard of the next company that Mr. Marcus founded—Home Depot.

Bill Belichick was fired as the head football coach of the Cleveland Browns. The owner told him that the team needed to go in another direction. Even if you aren't a football fan, you are probably aware that Belichick's new team, the New England Patriots, just won its third Super Bowl in four years.

Michael Bloomberg and 62 colleagues were summoned by the executives of Salomon Brothers. They were all fired in advance of a merger. Bloomberg founded his own billion-dollar company and is presently the mayor of New York City.

Jesse Ventura was fired by Twin City Radio Station KSTP. Governor Ventura showed that there is life after talk radio.

Walt Disney was fired from his newspaper job for a lack of ideas. From Mickey Mouse to Daffy Duck, his ideas laid the groundwork for one of America's most creative corporations, the Walt Disney Company.

Burt Reynolds was fired from an acting job and told he couldn't act. Afterward, he became the number-one box office draw for five consecutive years.

Lee Iacocca was fired from Ford on his 54th birthday after 32 years at the company. He led a struggling Chrysler back from the brink with the help of a loan from the US Government, a loan that was paid back in full.

Robert Redford was fired by Standard Oil after he broke 12 cases of empty soda bottles. His acting career has made him anything but "Ordinary People."

Louis Rukeyser, hosted the PBS show, "Wall Street Week" for 32 years. He was fired because PBS management felt he'd lost touch with younger viewers. His new show is on CNBC and quickly became its most watched program.

Ray Romano was fired from the pilot of a TV show called "News Radio." "Everyone Loves Raymond" has won many Golden Globes and Emmys.

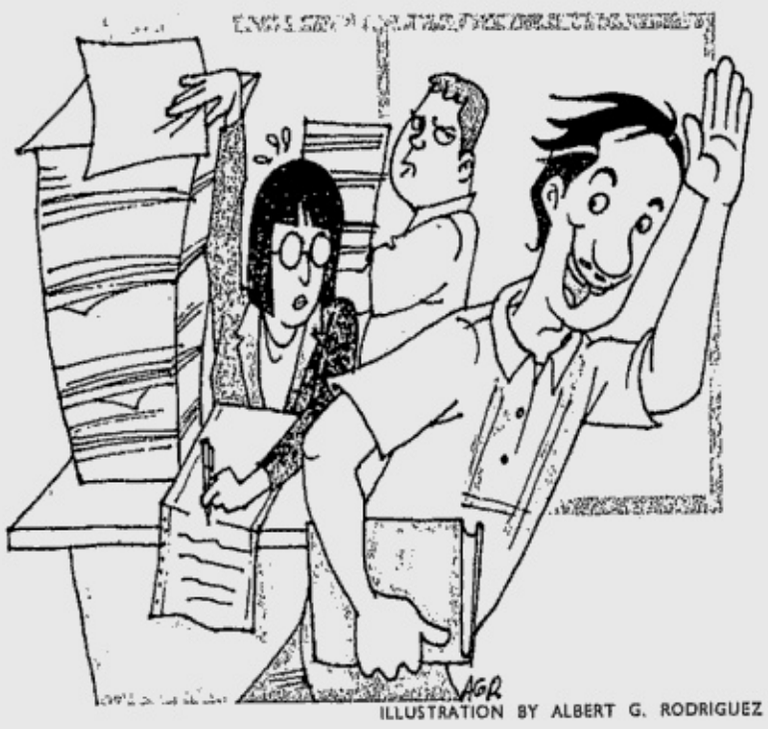


ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

Mark Cuban was fired from a computer store because all he wanted to do was sell and work on computers, instead of sweeping the floor like the owner wanted. Today, he is an Internet billionaire and owner of the Dallas Mavericks basketball team.

David Hasselhoff the star of "Baywatch" was fired, along with the rest of the cast when it was canceled after the first season. He believed in the show and bought the show's rights. It ran for 11 years in 140 countries in 32 different languages.

Most people who've been fired or laid off, feel like they are the only people in the world who this has ever happened to. Well, I've been fired, and so have most of the people that I know. The key thread in all of these stories is the desire to prove wrong the company, or individuals, who let you go. That drive, combined with learning all that you can from the experience, can give you the fuel to reach new heights. It did for me and all the people above.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwoun ded.com.)

'I am looking for a great career'

By Ernie O. Cecilia

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

I AM CURRENTLY WORKING for a Philippine-based business process outsourcing, an affiliate of a Forbes Top 20 US company. After one year with the company, I terribly want to move on—actually, since my regular appointment. I recently learned a lot of things that were not disclosed to me about the company. But the last straw in the camel's back was the performance appraisal. I cannot figure out how I was praised as hardworking and motivated during the regularization process, only to be criticized and rated as nonperforming in the yearly evaluation.

So I started looking for a new job here and abroad, as I need the money. During this time, I was also given a special assignment where I got an excellent rating. I am keeping the e-mail praising my performance—I might need some proof during next yearly evaluation.

A known US company got interested in my job application and I went through a series of phone interviews. I sensed that I did well since I was told to prepare for an interview in the US. A month ago, I was advised that I could not be issued a US visa, as the US embassy quota is now filled up and I have to wait until April 2006 for the interview.

I believe I am cut out for a US company, here or in the US. Now, I have second thoughts about leaving my present employer, as I don't want to move to non-US multinationals. But the thought of the next yearly evaluation keeps haunting me and I want to avoid the trauma. Sometimes, I just hope that something big will happen in April 2006.

Perhaps, I am really confused. Please advise me what to do to have a great career.

Dazed and Confused

Thanks for your e-mail last week. You don't appear that helpless after all. At least, you know what you want out of your career. Most of the people at work just get into the workplace without knowing where they want to go—they usually end up elsewhere, or more confused than you are about their own careers.

Concerns

Let me respond to your concerns, starting with your fear of the performance appraisal. First, you must understand that culture plays a very important part in evaluations of practically anything, including performance. Americans can be more brutally frank and honest with their evaluations than Asians.

Second, you must realize that many things in life are personal and not just business. When an

'I AM/P.7★★

'Tie' a successful look together

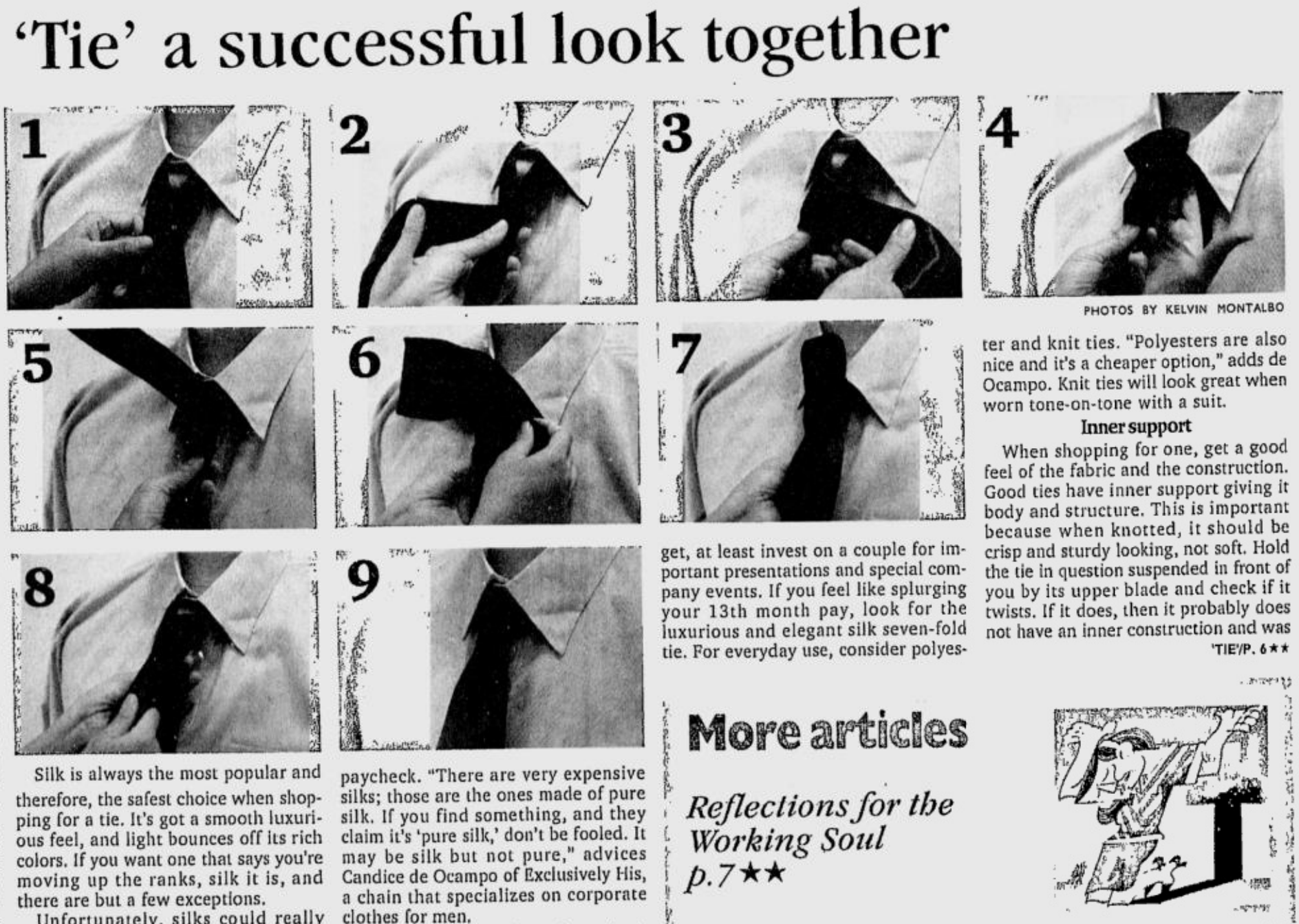
By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

"THERE IS NOTHING THAT CAN kill a great outfit, even if it's a stunning handmade suit, like a bad tie," says "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" host, Carson Kressley in his book "Off the Cuff." This queer eye for style and fashion says that although most men consider ties as an afterthought, ties are really important. Not necessarily a queer idea, but it's true; a tie is a necessary accessory that pulls together the whole look and brings across what even the most expensive watch can't. It reflects a man's personality, competence, breeding, social status and even education.

Think of it this way, if two men came up to you offering you exactly the same comprehensive insurance policy and both are just as reliable-looking and both just as glib and smooth with their sales pitches, who would you hand out your post-dated checks to? In all probability, the guy who's wearing the silk elegant tie knotted smartly.

Picking the right one

That's why it may not be a good idea to pick out just any polyester necktie off the rack or sport neckwear with green frogs jumping out of it. It's also a good idea to learn how to wear a tie around your neck properly. If you've been using one since your first Holy Communion, you might be surprised; there are some things you could still learn about neckwear. Untie your old beliefs and relearn how to tie down a sale or a promotion with a simple elegant knot that speaks volumes.



PHOTOS BY KELVIN MONTALBO

Silk is always the most popular and therefore, the safest choice when shopping for a tie. It's got a smooth luxurious feel, and light bounces off its rich colors. If you want one that says you're moving up the ranks, silk it is, and there are but a few exceptions.

Unfortunately, silks could really knock off a huge amount from your paycheck. "There are very expensive silks; those are the ones made of pure silk. If you find something, and they claim it's 'pure silk,' don't be fooled. It may be silk but not pure," advices Candice de Ocampo of Exclusively His, a chain that specializes on corporate clothes for men.

If silk ties are way beyond your budget, at least invest on a couple for important presentations and special company events. If you feel like splurging your 13th month pay, look for the luxurious and elegant silk seven-fold tie. For everyday use, consider polyester and knit ties. "Polyesters are also nice and it's a cheaper option," adds de Ocampo. Knit ties will look great when worn tone-on-tone with a suit.

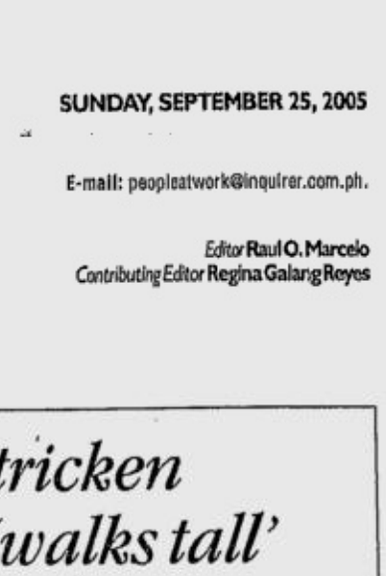
Inner support

When shopping for one, get a good feel of the fabric and the construction. Good ties have inner support giving it body and structure. This is important because when knotted, it should be crisp and sturdy looking, not soft. Hold the tie in question suspended in front of you by its upper blade and check if it twists. If it does, then it probably does not have an inner construction and was

'TIE'/P. 6★★

Polio-stricken jobseeker 'walks tall' with My Trabaho Dream

By Ruth M. Floresca
Contributor



BONGOLAN RYAN LIM

VINCENT BONGOLAN walks with the help of crutches. He was diagnosed with poliomyelitis when he was still small. "A disability is only a hindrance if you let it be one. Yes, I am physically disabled, but I refuse to be called abnormal." These are wise words from someone who has constantly risen above his physical difficulties.

With a bachelor's degree in applied statistics earned from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in 2004, Bongo lan was able to get a temporary clerical job at a government agency. However, since he could not apply his statistical background at work, he dreamed of finding a more suitable job.

My TRABAHO

My Trabaho Dream

Then, he heard of My Trabaho Dream, a public service program implemented by the Philippine Daily Inquirer, the Manila Broadcasting Company and Optimus Innovations, Inc. that helps beneficiaries find their dream jobs. Taking courage, Bongolan wrote to My Trabaho Dream.

Bongolan was randomly picked to be one of the partial beneficiaries to be given a free two-day Career Planning Seminar-Workshop conducted by Josie Santamaria, president of Career Systems, Inc. Then, Stella Sison, a consultant of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, selected Bongolan as her mentee thus entitling Bongolan to weekly job coaching sessions and other benefits.

Sison regularly communicates with him and gives him tips as well as encouragement up to the present. "I advised him to ask what his superiors expect from him and to clarify job requirements at the outset, then perform accordingly, so he can get regularized. I also assured him that if field work was not required of him, then he had all the reasons to pass," says Sison.

Getting the dream job

Before he was made beneficiary of My Trabaho Dream, Bongolan admits to having little confidence in himself. "Thanks to Ma'am Stella and the seminar, I proved to myself that I can do what other normal people can," he discloses. "Also, I became unafraid to resign from a job to seek something better. I realized that if I don't explore other options, when would the right time be?"

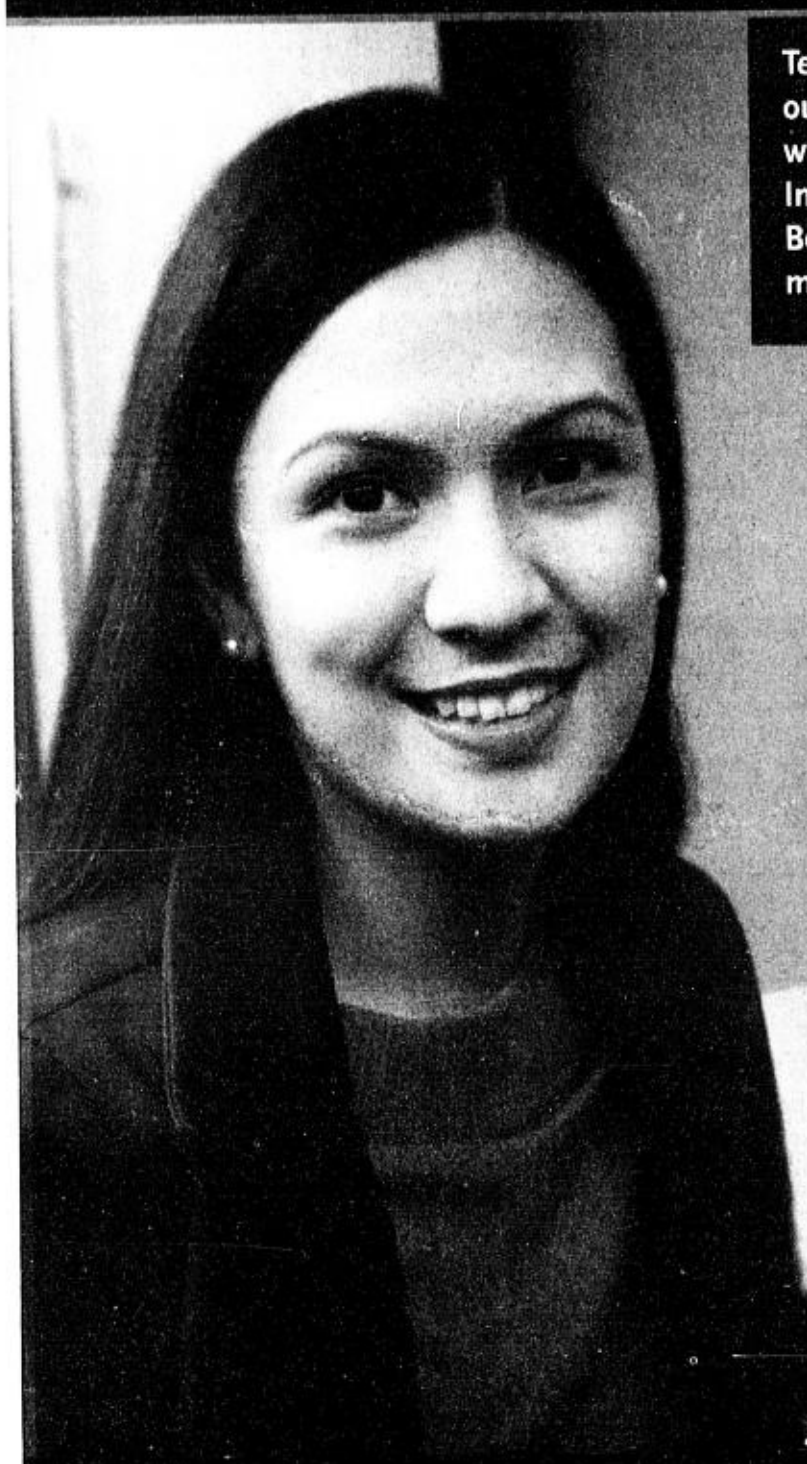
Just last July, Bongolan finally landed a job as statistician for a savings and loan association near Taft Avenue in Manila. "I'm glad that finally, I am able to apply in practice what I learned all these years in school," he relates. Bongo lan is also happy that now, he can already help his parents in sending his youngest sibling through college.

POLIO-STRICKEN/P.6★★

More articles

Reflections for the Working Soul p.7★★

You see a world without limits



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Polio-stricken jobseeker 'walks tall' ...

From page 4★★

Getting the job the he wants is not the first challenge that Bongolan has hurdled. "I remember the taunts and scowls of neighborhood children and classmates, of being hit by small stones and other things," he recalls. "I kept telling myself that they just don't understand because they are kids and that when they grow up, they'll realize how wrong they have been." Those incidents didn't damp Bongolan's spirit. He exclaims, "I am not worthless! I promised myself that I would be somebody to be respected someday, that I won't be ridiculed forever."

Challenging childhood

Bongolan is grateful that his parents helped him go to school. During grades one and two in elementary, his father would bring him to school everyday and Bongolan would sit in his chair from the first class to the last and patiently waited for his father to pick him up in the afternoon. Before he entered the third grade, Bongolan had to learn to walk using crutches because he was already too heavy to be carried. Despite these obstacles, he became a consistent honor student in elementary and was twice awarded Most Disciplined Student of the Year.

Bongolan's father was a policeman, his mother a public school teacher. The family was not well-off so Bongolan, the second of five siblings, applied for and was granted a high school scholarship by their vice mayor when he started his freshman year in 1995. "Before completing those four years, I won in the quiz bee, was voted class president and was awarded Most Cooperative Student," he recalls.

More hurdles

Going to college posed a problem. In Nueva Ecija where the Bongolan family lives, there were no colleges that offer accessibility to the disabled. "All the buildings only have stairs and no elevators. I was daunted by the thought of climbing five flights of steps just to attend a class located in a fifth floor," explains Bongolan.

The determined young man didn't lose hope. He researched for colleges in Metro Manila where students like him can study. "The Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) became my salvation. However, it was harder to convince my parents of letting me go than to pass the entrance exams," he reveals.

After much persuasive arguments, Bongolan's determination won. His parents allowed him to live with his older sister in a boarding house in Sta. Mesa. He reminisced, "On my first week in Manila, I immediately went to the Commission on Higher Education office and tried to convince them why I should be a beneficiary." Thankfully, his scholarship application was approved and his tuition fees were reimbursed at the end of every semester. He confidently joined academic contests such as debates and essay writing competitions, which at times he won. He even acquired his much-utilized mobile phone from a logo-making contest. "Furthermore, I was editor in chief of the Statistics Newsletter and received the Best Thesis Award," he shares.

More dreams

After getting his dream job—one that enabled him to use his educational background—Bongolan still dreams on. Bongolan is still after two things: to become a lawyer and to be able to walk normally. "I have searched the Internet and found that there is a hospital in Taiwan who does novel rectification therapy, a procedure I'm optimistic might help me walk without crutches anymore," shares he. "Unfortunately, I can't afford the very high fees they are charging. But I'm hopeful that I can find a benefactor someday who would help me realize this goal."

For someone who shows how hopes are realized by grit and faith, Bongolan sure has become the respected person he has promised himself to be. He shares, "If I can do it, anybody can too. A person's destiny is determined by belief in oneself and I have proven that true time and again."

His mentor, Sison wisely adds, "We all have our forms of handicap. Although Bongolan's is physical, a bias towards his disability in a job where fieldwork is not required is also a handicap." She applauds Bongolan's cou-rage because "he knows that at the end of the day, we are all on equal footing because we have to strive hard to make the best of what we have." (*Send feedback to* writer mom@gmail.com)

For more information on My Trabaho Dream, read the pages of People at Work for announcements.

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'Tie' a successful look together

From page 4★★

not cut well. De Ocampo suggests pulling the necktie from both ends to check its resiliency.

Note that a tie of good quality normally has blades tipped of the same fabric as the shell of the tie. Expensive ties also have loops made of the same fabric at the back of the blade to tuck in the rear blade. Lesser quality kinds often use the label as a loop.

Finally, think of proportions. If you're wearing a jacket, the width of the wider blade of your tie should not be bigger than the jacket's lapel. It's always safe to go with widths between three and a half to four inches.

Color and prints

A canvass for expression, a necktie should reflect your personality and taste. No one can therefore tell you which design or print to choose. There are however, a few guidelines you can go by. The golden rule is to avoid loud screaming prints. Understated elegance should always be kept in mind when picking out neckwear. Although cartoon characters may be acceptable in highly creative and artistic workplaces, like advertising agencies for example, pop art is a no-no in boardrooms or conventions.

"Although we are in the trend of experimenting with color, you have to make sure it matches you or goes with your personality. Ask a girl or guy friend whom you trust when it comes to clothing," says de Ocampo.

Match with wardrobe

Always consider the shirts and pants you have in your closet when shopping for a tie. Pick one that would go well with your existing wardrobe. It should match at least two or three of your shirts. Remember that the color of your shirt should highlight a color from the tie.

Since most of men's shirts are white or in different shades of blue, de Ocampo says neckties in blue prints are safe bets. "Pink is also a good color but it depends on the shade of pink, what color or shade of dress shirt one is wearing, and who is wearing it."

Stay away from big fat stripes. Go for subtle or tiny prints like paisley or pinstripes. Diagonal stripes can actually chisel away chubby cheeks and double chins and even add some sharpness to a soft face. Stylist expert Kressler suggests playing with the seasons. During summers, consider lime green and navy combinations. During the holidays, spruce up a bit with rich reds and golds.

Also consider your complexion when picking out colors. If you have a fair complexion and soft features, go for pastels. The dark ones with strong features will stand out in equally strong colors like black, brown, warm orange, red and yellow. Those in the middle are lucky. They can wear almost any color, but they will go best with khaki, taupe and green.

Knot the right way

There is an abundance of colors and prints in neckwear to give your outfit some punch but don't let it all go to waste with a clumsy knot. How you wear your tie says a lot. Emanate authority by following the dress line followed by military officers. According to de Ocampo, imagine a vertical line from your nose through the middle of the collar, the center of the tie, the belt buckle and right down to your feet. The line should always pass through the tie's dimple on the knot.

If the knot is not done snugly following that guideline, the look becomes sloppy. Pull up the knot tightly between the collars so that it arches out slightly from the neck. In short, like the military officers, the knot should always be standing at attention and looking sharp. The dimple at the bottom of the knot is also as important as a soldier's snappy salute. Last but not the least, the end of the tie should fall around the belt buckle.

(To be continued next week.)

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

Tying the knot

Now that you know how the knot should stand, do you actually know how to tie the knot?

There are several ways to wear a necktie but the most popular is the Windsor knot because it displays an air of confidence and is easy to do. Wide and triangular, the Windsor is perfect for presentations and job interviews. It goes best with spread collar shirts, long necks and fuller faces because the wide knot shortens the length of the neck and looks better under large chins.

The four-in-hand, in contrast to the Windsor, is narrow and more discreet with its conical shape. Unlike the Windsor, it's suited for shorter necks because it offers an illusion of elongation. It's best for standard button-down shirts. Pick ties that are wide and heavier in make for the four-in-hand.

Pinning it down

Some might say tie clips and bars are for older men. But for practical reasons, they are best worn by almost anyone. For one, they keep the necktie in place. Secondly, and maybe most important of all, clips will keep your ties from swimming in your bowl of soup. Tie clips and bars also help maintain your neckwear's arch in the shirt collar.

Tie bars or tie slides are easy to use because you simply slide it across the middle part of the blade to attach it to your shirt. Always wear them angled slightly downward. The same goes for a tie clip or clasp.

The tie tack is fancier. It's made of two parts, the visible decorative part and a metal weight attached with a chain. The pin is pierced through the tie while the weight is inserted through a button hole in your shirt. Because the tack pierces the tie, you may want to think twice about using one; it could damage your expensive silk. Also, be choosy about the decorative pin. Go for simple understated stones that compliment your tie. Similarly, a tie chain is just as complicated. The upper part of the chain is hooked to one of your shirt's buttons while the chain itself is looped over the blade of the tie.

If you do not want anything distracting, a tie strap is something to consider. It's worn through the label loop and attached to your shirt buttons. It's more discreet than the other tie holds because it's made of cloth or plastic and is worn under the tie.

(*E-mail feedback to* candyvillanueva@pldtdsl.net)

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Which 'son' are you?

By Teresa R. Tunay

ONE REASON THE BIBLE NEVER BORES ME IS IT'S SO ... ageless! It's so old and yet so current. Just look at today's Gospel story of the two sons and see if you do not find the very same "sons" in your workplace here and now! When told by their father to work in the vineyard, the first one said he would not but went to work anyway; the second said yes but didn't go.

We have coworkers who are like these two sons. I've worked with people I'd call "born gripers"—people who cannot but gripe, grumble and moan but later on do a darned good job anyway. And I've also worked with the "never deliver people" (and there are more of this type) who'll say yes to everything you say but—well, never deliver.

When it comes to work evaluation time, it's easy to see who'll get the Silver Stars on the chart—the Gold Stars being reserved for those who don't gripe but always deliver—the "born gripers," because like the first son in the Gospel, he did his father's will. He protested first, but he did his father's will just the same.

The "never deliver people" in my roster are the angelic beings who will not hesitate to say yes to everything to "keep the peace" in the workplace but in the long run, they actually drag the company's growth. The "born gripers" outwardly resemble outcasts—tax collectors and prostitutes in the Gospel—but their contributions, in spite of their external posturing, help much to keep the company alive.

Any manager would find it easy to play deaf and dumb to workplace noise such as petty complaints or momentary grievances, because when it comes to rewarding time, it's performance that really counts. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Matthew 21: 28-32

Jesus said to them, "Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you."

Injustices done at work

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

It was CONSOLING FOR ME TO RECEIVE E-MAIL FROM one of the readers of this column. However, it got me also depressed to learn that many people in the workplace perpetrate great injustices and evil. Dinky of Makati wrote to me about her being illegally dismissed from her job and how she suffered a lot because of the unfair labor practices by management. Her case reminds me of the numerous labor disputes that need to be justly resolved either by the Department of Labor and Employment or by the parties concerned through an amicable settlement process.

Unfortunately, several workers continue to suffer the injustices committed in the workplace, which make it difficult for them to continue believing in God, who is supposed to be the Father of all.

The words of Jesus in today's Gospel, which reveals who and what kind of people will easily get rewarded with entry to the kingdom of God, could guide workers who are in adverse work circumstances. Those who are unjustly accused of wrongdoing in work or unfairly treated could remind themselves that the justice of God works differently from that of man. This belief can give comfort to those given odd work schedules, too much workload, or even in the worst case scenario, are undeservedly considered as unfit for their jobs and consequently, illegally dismissed from the company.

God sees the innermost hearts of workers who truly believe in Him and do their jobs with sincerity and truth even if their management unjustly treats them. They will find justice in God's time and certainly receive His reward. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

'I am looking for a great career'

From page 4**

appraiser tells you, "It's not personal, it's purely business," don't believe it. It's going to be as personal as can be.

Third, performance does not speak for itself. Bosses are busy doing their work and will notice more your mistakes than your good work. If you're doing just "good," it's par for the course. You won't get noticed. Only the lousy and the outstanding really get noticed—unless you master the art of getting noticed. (Refer to my previous column about "Bragging—without being obnoxious.")

Fourth, know the performance standards from the point of view of your raters. Ask what it takes to have great ratings. Understand the results expected from you—results, not just your job. Appraisals are about results and how those results were achieved.

Decision point

With these, I hope you will know how to better prepare for your next evaluation—if you decide to stay with your present company.

Now, should you stay or go? If you go, where to? If you want to have a great career, you must do what you love and love what you do. You seem to have no problem with what you do now. I assume that you are doing what you love. But to love what you do, there can be other considerations.

In a survey we made about what can make people stay or move out, relationships rank high—in most cases, higher than compensation. You cannot work in a hostile environment. People leave when they don't like their bosses or workmates. More people leave when their bosses or their workmates don't like them. I don't think this is true in your case.

If you truly want to work only in US companies here or in the US, there is nothing wrong with that. I also worked and enjoyed working with a US company. Today, I continue to work with the American Chamber of Commerce as chairman of its Industrial Relations Committee. I find these experiences quite interesting and rewarding.

In your case, you will be limiting your chances of moving out if you zero in only on US companies. In your industry, however, there are many US companies to choose from.

Doing a great job

If you are serious about leaving your present employer, spend more time and effort in looking for a job elsewhere. If you think you can have a great career where you are now, spend more time doing a great job and getting noticed for it. You'd be better off making a decision now than waiting for things beyond your control to unfold in the future. You might also do both—continue doing a great job and seek greener pastures.

You did well by not leaving without a sure job, not just for financial reasons. The best candidates for any job are usually those who are not looking for it because they still have a job. Ask the headhunters—most of their placements come from those already employed.

Truly, only you can decide whether to stay or go. If your first performance evaluation as a nonperformer will be forever a stigma in your budding career, it might be best to move on to where you can start a new career right. If you so decide, make a strong deliberate move to get hired by an employer that you will love to work with. If you really want something that bad, go after it. Don't leave anything to chance. If in April 2006 something big truly happens, be sure that you know what to do with the opportunity.

Great careers don't happen by accident. Successful people know what they want and go for it. They constantly look for opportunities everywhere. If they cannot see one, they create opportunities for themselves.

One of the greatest lies ever told is "Opportunities knock only once." (Read about it in one of my two forthcoming books—"Life's Big Lessons" and "Life's Big Lies.")

(*Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. He was the president of Personnel Management Association of the Philippines or PMAP in 1999. His career books are available at popular bookstores. Send feedback to* ernie_ceci lia@yahoo.com.)

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3) Must have sufficient knowledge in windows-based software management
4) Work experience an advantage but not required.

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REBAP Magazine 3rd Edition

A special supplement on the real estate industry

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Working to protect the real estate industry

By Marlet D. Salazar

THE REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY HAD ITS HEYDAYS IN THE LATE 1990S. By the approach of the 21st century, it slowed down even with a number of developers who still worked their way in defying the crisis.

Now, in a sudden turn of events, realty is not going anywhere but up. Since last year, it had picked up and is on its way, albeit gradually, into realty boom. This is despite the political and economic crisis hounding the country. Developers, brokers, property sellers, investors, and the consumers are on a roll again. Its already established network is moving once again in a pace that is more calculated and sure.

Cherith Domingo, president of Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines (Rebap), believes that the property development in various areas signal the new boom in real estate.

Architect Jose Thomas Beldia of JTB Development Co. Inc. sees that the industry is on its takeoff point since last year. However, the current situation in the country somewhat hinders its continuous growth.

"The activity will be as good as the 1998 level or even better," he said. "As far as development of technology is concerned, we are at par with the rest of the Asian region."

His developing company is into research and development of building technology. This is to keep up with the ever changing cost of building construction materials.

"This is one of the keys for us to widen or keep our market strong," Beldia said. "We do research on how to keep the prices low of building systems methodology."

In this case, they are able to maintain the affordability of its projects for the target market. "The only solution to that is giving them another system to maintain the cost on that level instead of increasing every price movement. If we do that, the market will only become smaller," Beldia added.

Licensed brokers

With this development, Rebap is gearing the way to a more organized and professionalized industry to protect all sectors involved. One of the association's main projects is to see that House Bill No. 1081 be passed before the end of this year. According to Domingo, it is already on its third reading since it was proposed three or four years ago.

The bill seeks to regulate the profession of real estate brokers. It would require all transactions to pass through licensed brokers. It also seeks to transfer the regulatory agency that handles brokers from the current Department of Trade Industry to the Professional Regulation Commission. The bill is sponsored by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who is also expected to be one of the guests in the coming national convention on Nov. 24-26 at the Villa Caceres in Naga City.

Rebap chair Danny Santos said, "The bill, if passed, would protect all parties—the sellers, the brokers, and the buyers." This would also help clean up the rampant unfair practices in the industry.

"A broker, when professionalized and acquires a license becomes a tax-paying citizen," he said. "In this way, he or she helps the industry and the government in the process."

This move in pushing for the bill raised awareness among the developers and the banks that now require licenses before accepting any transaction from the brokers.

"They want it organized," Domingo said. "Some people or agents are controlled by a licensed broker in which case the transaction is also accredited."

She specifically stated the Baguio chapter which is now practicing a more organized and reliable method of protecting the industry. Domingo said publications in Baguio would not allow any advertisement of a property to be sold unless a person is a certified broker or unless the seller is the property owner.

The bill in Congress is almost the same as the bill forwarded by Senator

WORKING/P.2

REBAP

Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines, Inc. 25 Silver Jubilee Storm

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REBAP CORNER

National Board of Directors 2005, headed by Ms. Ma. Carlota "Cherith" A. Domingo with some of the National board members, National Director Eden Dela Cruz, Chairman Danilo Y. Santos, National VP for External Affair Eller V. Garcia and National Treasurer Noel N. Cobangbang have just concluded their successful Visayas Chapter Visitation last July 12,13 & 14, 2005 in Cebu & Bacolod.

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From page I

Biazon only his version also seeks that the permit of Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board will be decentralized to avoid red tape.

Increase in members not in dues

In a span of nine months, Rebap chapters have increased from 20 in January to 30. The additional 10 are from the provincial districts.

In Bicol alone, Rebap has three chapters: Daet, Naga, and Legazpi. There is a new additional chapter in the Visayas which is Tacloban joining the already existing Negros and Cebu chapters. General Santos is the lone chapter in Mindanao. Luzon, aside from Metro Manila, has the most number of chapters. Southern Luzon includes Cavite, Laguna, Tagaytay. Northern Luzon added the newly activated Pangasinan joining Baguio, Bataan, Cagayan Valley, La Union, Pampanga, and Tarlac, while Bulacan is already in the works. Metro Manila is already fixed at 12.

The number of members also reported an increase from 340 in the first quarter to more than 500 as of September.

"We will try our best until the end of the year to increase the number of our members," Domingo said, "So as not to increase our membership dues we will increase the members."

The association is aiming to add five to six more chapters until next year.

Members attend the Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar (CRES) which also serves as a review class for the brokers' licensure examination scheduled for Nov. 27. "About 16 chapters will conduct review and seminar nationwide," Santos said.

Rebap is now expanding its marketing tool with its website. In line with this, the organization gives free line ads for its members until the end of this year. So far, the marketing efforts have been paying off. More developers and property sellers are coming into the association for business transactions.

The 27th Rebap Annual Convention and Election which is set for November will see the significant achievements and movements of the association in the first two quarters of 2005. About 200 delegations are expected to attend.

"We will talk about the updates on the economic situation of the real estate business," Domingo said. "We will also hold the election of the new set of officers."

The nationwide organization is also into outreach programs to benefit the less fortunate Filipinos. Last year, they held a fund-raising campaign benefiting the Kapuso Foundation and the Philippine Daily Inquirer's drive for the typhoon victims in Quezon. This year, they will again hold another of its kind to be able to help people in need.

With all the activities well planned at the beginning of the year, Rebap is all set to achieving them before the term of this year's set of officers finish their term.

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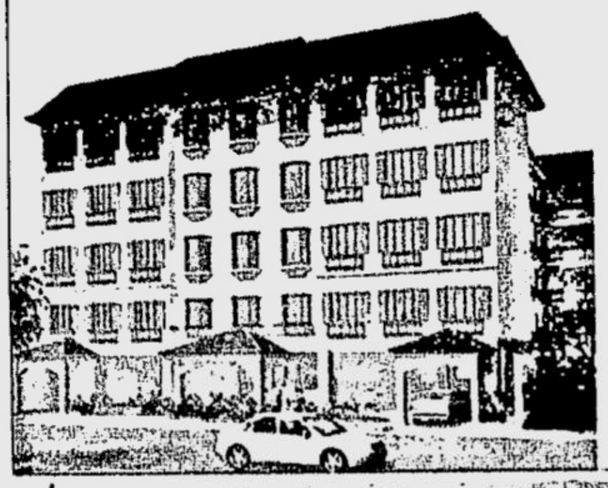

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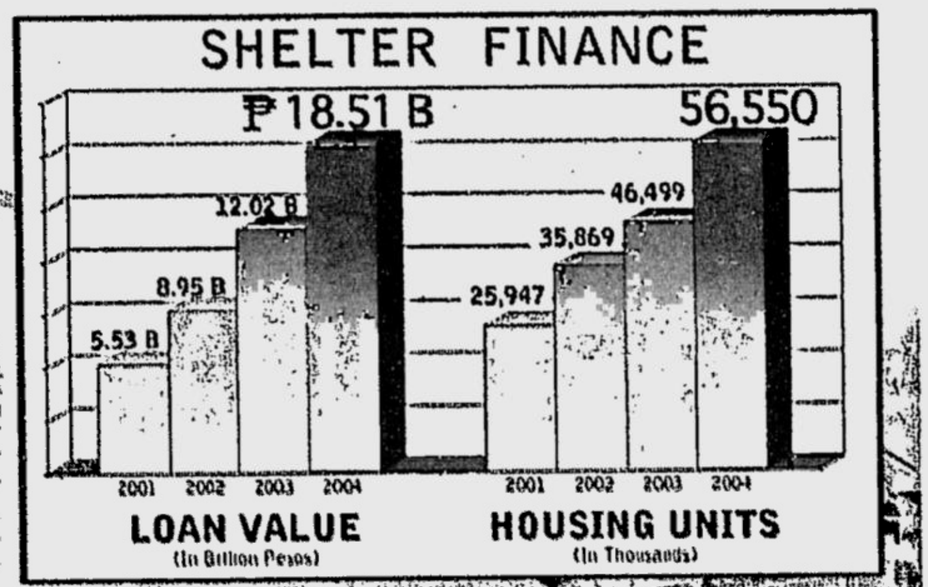

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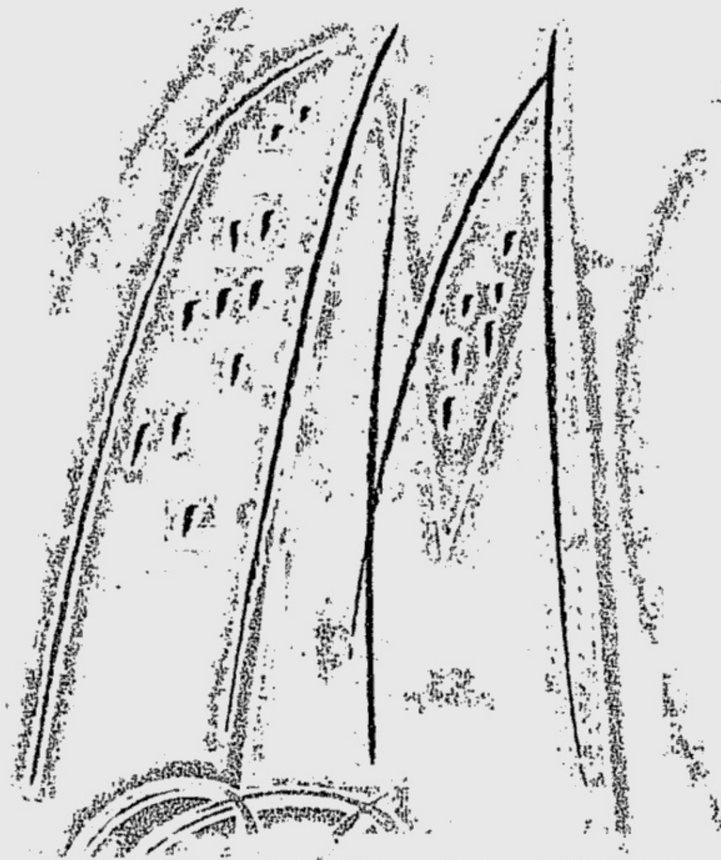

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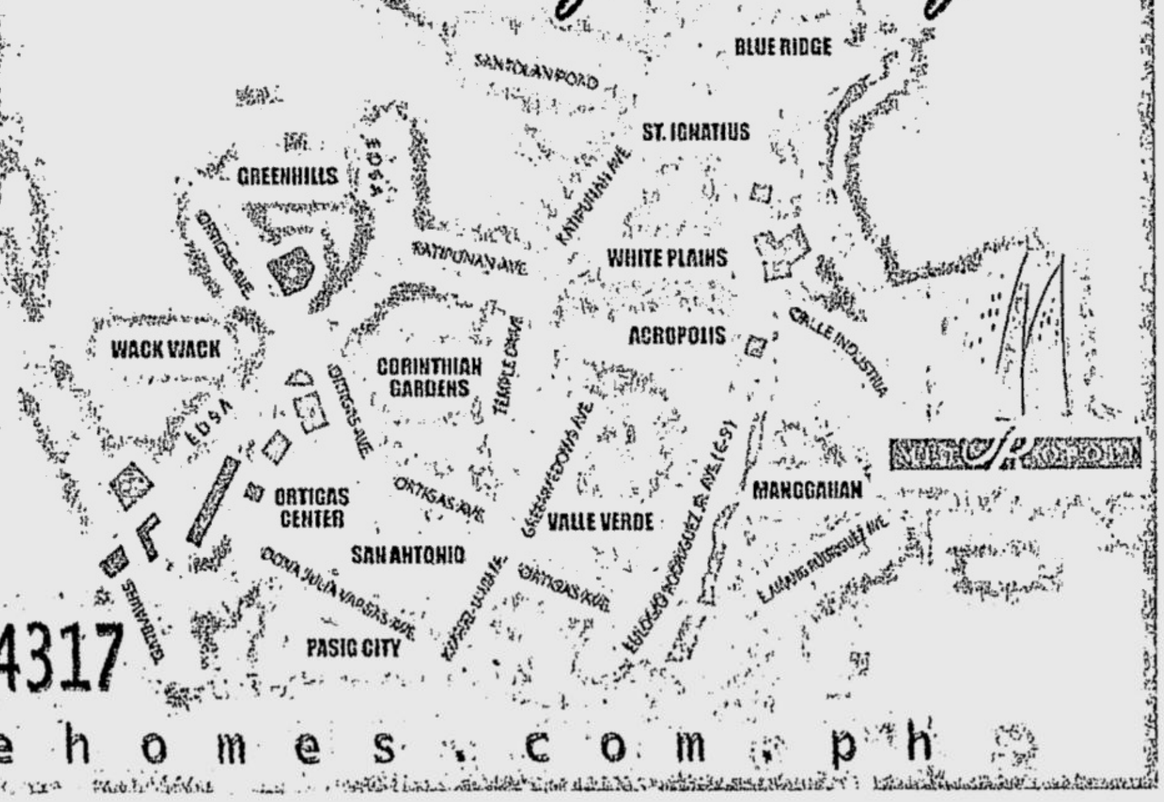

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Late renewals will have to pay 50% surcharge. While those who failed to renew their license for more than one year must pay the basic license fee for all the years the applicant was not licensed plus 50% surcharge on the total basic fee.

Pursuant to Ministry Order No. 39, Series of 1985, as amended, Bureau of Trade Regulation and Consumer Protection (BTRCP) through the Provincial Offices regulates the licensing and supervision of real estate practitioners to protect the public from dishonest or incompetent salesmen, brokers, appraisers, and consultants; maintain high standards in the real estate profession; as well as protect licensed real estate service professionals from unfair or improper competition.

Last May 29, the BTRCP headed by Director Victorio Mario A. Dimagiba facilitated the real estate brokers examination simultaneously in the cities of Quezon, Baguio, Tuguegarao, San Fernando-Pampanga, Lucena, Legaspi, Cebu, Iloilo, and Cagayan De Oro.

November 27 examinations are scheduled in Quezon City, San Fernando City-La Union, Angeles, Tacloban, Batangas, Cebu, and Davao City. Interested applicants may coordinate with the DTI offices where the examination will be conducted.

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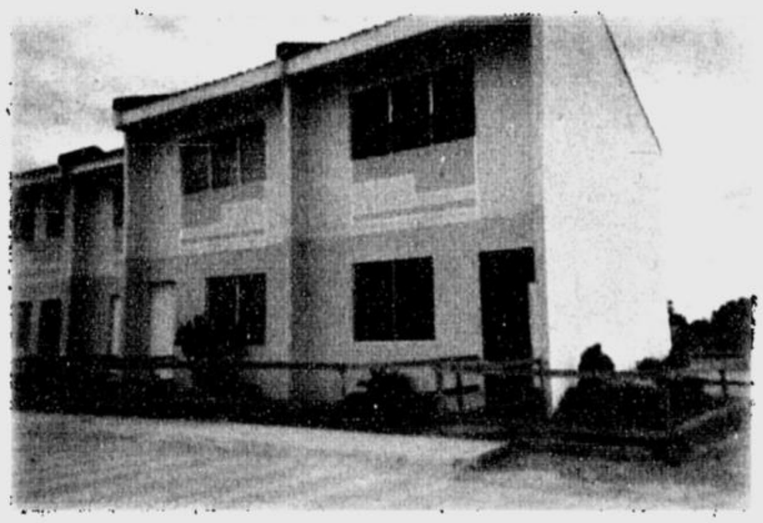

"No Down No Equity"

Telephone No.:
(046) 417-3915
(046) 970-6688/99

Manila Line:
6700-5574

E-mail Address:
kings_kid@yahoo.com

Broker: Blessie
(0920) 225-7378
(0916) 344-7850

Sales Managers:
Michelle - (0919) 245-0318
Marvin: (0921) 804-9303
Mike: (0919) 894-8546

AGENTS & BROKERS ARE WELCOME!!!

VILLA CACERES, NAGA CITY
Venue of the 27th REBAP Annual Convention on Nov. 24 to 26, 2005.

Compliments of:

P.H. ESPINA REALTY

PERLA H. ESPINA
President/Owner

- **BROKERAGE**
- **SALES**
- **RENTALS**
- **HOUSING**
- **COMMERCIAL LOTS/RESIDENTIAL LOTS**
- **AGRICULTURAL LOTS/INDUSTRIAL LOTS**
- **TOWNHOUSES/CONDOMINIUMS**
- **BANK FORECLOSED PROPERTIES**
- **RENTAL AND LOAN ASSISTANCE**

OFFICE:

McArthur Highway,
San Rafael, Tarlac City
Tel. No. (045) 611-2006
Cell. No. (0918) 725-9932

Cut this AD!

CASA REGALIA HOUSING BARATILLO

Casa Regalia ,Inc Office , Ground Floor , STARMALL EDSA cor Shaw Blvd, Mandaluyong City

First come, first serve ; Properties are on an "as-is-where-is" basis.

100% DOWNPAYMENT
1-4% INTEREST RATE
1 TO 1 YEARS TO PAY

Reservation Fee
PHP10,000
Cash or Manager's Check

Please bring the ff:
1.ITR/payslip/ COEC/COE
2.Cedula
3. 2 valid ID
4. 2 pcs 2x2 picture
5 proof of billing address
6.Birth/Marriage Cert

Camella Las Piñas, Las Piñas City

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot only
Blk 11 Lot 2A Lot Area =160sqm
Total Contract Price = P975,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot only
Blk 11 Lot 3 Lot Area =180sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,170,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot only
Blk 18 Lot 26 Lot Area =267sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,869,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot only
Blk 19 Lot 9 Lot Area =309sqm
Total Contract Price = P2,163,000

Las Piñas Classic 2 Lot only
Blk 5 Lot 17 Lot Area =158sqm
Total Contract Price = P869,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot with Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 2 Lot Area =163sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,855,600

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot with Improvement
Blk 14 Lot 6 Lot Area =140sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,190,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot with Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 4 Lot Area =164sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,394,000

Las Piñas Classic 1 Lot with Improvement
Blk 18 Lot 1 Lot Area =151sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,132,500

Camella Parañaque, La Huerta, Sucat

P'que4 Lot only
Blk 12 Lot 10 Lot Area = 225sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,300,000

P'que4 Lot only
Blk 12 Lot 14 Lot Area = 218sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,269,000

P'que4 Lot only
Blk 13 Lot 20 Lot Area = 217sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,254,000

P'que4 Lot only
Blk 13 Lot 21 Lot Area = 224sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,294,000

P'que4 Lot only
Blk 13 Lot 22 Lot Area = 170sqm
Total Contract Price = P982,000

P'que4 Lot with Improvement
Blk 13 Lot 23 Lot Area = 166sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,176,000

P'que4 Lot with Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 15 Lot Area = 130sqm
Total Contract Price = P987,000

Inquire now!

La Segovia, Las Piñas City

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 12 Lot Area =100sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,587,488

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 17 Lot Area =100sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,587,488

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 18 Lot Area =100sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,587,488

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 21 Lot Area =150sqm
Total Contract Price = P2,241,486

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 15 Lot Area =100sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,587,488

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 31 Lot Area =100sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,587,488

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 48 Lot Area =150sqm
Total Contract Price = P2,241,486

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 49 Lot Area =150sqm
Total Contract Price = P2,241,486

La Segovia Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 61 Lot Area =160sqm
Total Contract Price = P2,241,486

Palmera Ortigas, Taytay, Rizal

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 41A Lot Area = 82sqm
Total Contract Price = P394,000

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 59A Lot Area = 70sqm
Total Contract Price = P405,000

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 59B Lot Area = 70sqm
Total Contract Price = P405,000

Ortigas 4B Lot with Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 1 Lot Area = 115sqm
Total Contract Price = P596,000

Ortigas 4B Lot with Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 2 Lot Area = 145sqm
Total Contract Price = P722,000

Ortigas 4B with Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 4 Lot Area = 60sqm
Total Contract Price = P365,000

Ortigas 4B Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 8 Lot Area = 60sqm
Total Contract Price = P365,000

Ortigas 4B Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 10 Lot Area = 137sqm
Total Contract Price = P689,000

Ortigas 4B Lot only
Blk 3 Lot 3 Lot Area = 52sqm
Total Contract Price = P332,000

Palmera Ortigas, Taytay, Rizal

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 30 Lot Area =75sqm
Total Contract Price = P394,000

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 31 Lot Area = 76sqm
Total Contract Price = 394,000

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 32 Lot Area = 76sqm
Total Contract Price = 394,000

Ortigas 4 Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 38 Lot Area = 76sqm
Total Contract Price = 394,000

Ortigas 4B Lot only
Blk 3 Lot 10 Lot Area =231sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,326,000

Ortigas 4B Lot only
Blk 3 Lot 17 Lot Area = 151sqm
Total Contract Price = 906,000

Ortigas 5B Lot only
Blk 7 Lot 3 Lot Area = 102sqm
Total Contract Price = 575,000

Ortigas 5B Lot only
Blk 8 Lot 3 Lot Area = 90sqm
Total Contract Price = 331,000

Ortigas 5B Lot only
Blk 8 Lot 4 Lot Area = 103sqm
Total Contract Price = 379,000

Palmera Springs, Camarin, Novaliches

Springs 2 Lot only
Blk 30 Lot 1 Lot Area =131sqm
Total Contract Price = P963,000

Springs 2 Lot only
Blk 30 Lot 3 Lot Area = 162sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,134,000

Springs 3A Lot with Improvement
Blk 28 Lot 14 Lot Area = 141sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,333,000

Springs 4 Lot with Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 4 Lot Area = 77sqm
Total Contract Price = P728,000

Springs 4 Lot only
Blk 10 Lot 1 Lot Area = 154sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,132,000

Springs 4 Lot with Improvement
Blk 13 Lot 1 Lot Area = 131sqm
Total Contract Price = P1,238,000

Springs 5 Lot with Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 17 Lot Area = 56sqm
Total Contract Price = P423,000

Springs 5 Lot with Improvement
Blk 13 Lot 8 Lot Area = 70sqm
Total Contract Price = P662,000

Springs 5 Lot with Improvement
Blk 13 Lot 44 Lot Area = 60sqm
Total Contract Price = P473,000

KITA-KITA tayo sa Site!

TANZA, CAVITE
Oct 5 & 22 - Carissa Homes
Ph 3 Engr's Office

DASMARIÑAS
Oct 16 & 30 - San Marino City
@ the Plaza

SAN JOSE DEL MONTE
Oct 15 - Northwinds City
@ the Resort

CAMELLA LAS PIÑAS NOW AVAILABLE
DIRECT BUYERS ONLY.

MAY BAHAY KA NA BA?

May NORTH, SOUTH at EAST subdivisions!
Abot-kayang buwanang hulog • Lipat AGAD

INVENTORIES AVAILABLE:
San Marino, Dasmariñas, Cavite
La Trinidad, Trece Martires, Cavite
Northridge Royale, San Jose Del Monte City
Northwinds City, San Jose Del Monte City
Tierra Monte, San Mateo, Rizal
Carissa Homes, San Jose del Monte City
Barcelona, Imus, Cavite
Ridgeview, Tunasan, Muntinlupa
Bermuda, Cabuyao, Laguna
Sorrento, Bacoor, Cavite
San Marino Square, Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite
La Poblacion, San Jose del Monte
Carissa Homes, Teresa, Rizal

Special Buyers' Day

P5,000 Res'n Fee only

Sept 30 Oct 15 Nov 19 Dec 17

Call now for free site tripping.

Barcelona, Imus, Cavite

Imus, Cavite

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 32 Price = P876,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 14 Price = P549,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 16 Price = P549,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 13 Lot 2 Price = P697,000
Lot Area =71sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 10 Price = P497,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 22 Price = P549,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=42sqm

Barc 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 17 Price = P536,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 28C Price = P536,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 2 Lot only
Blk 3 Lot 16 Price = P596,000
Lot Area =129sqm

Barc 2 Lot only
Blk 3 Lot 19 Price = P449,000
Lot Area =92sqm

Barc 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 5 Price = P525,000
Lot Area =48sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 3 Lot 6 Price = P683,000
Lot Area =78sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 42 Price = P730,000
Lot Area =87sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 16 Price = P782,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=40sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 104 Price = P776,000
Lot Area =74sqm Flr area=51sqm

Barc 3 Lot only
Blk 9 Lot 111 Price = P315,000
Lot Area =75sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 116 Price = P799,000
Lot Area =78sqm Flr area=51sqm

Barc 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 17 Price = P793,000
Lot Area =77sqm Flr area=51sqm

San Marino Square, Paliparan, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Dasmariñas, Cavite

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 1 Lot 26 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 1 Lot 27 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 1 Lot 28 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 1 Lot 29 Price = P272,000
Lot Area =74sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 3 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 4 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 5 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 2 Lot 8 Price = P335,000
Lot Area =91sqm

San Marino Square Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 13 Price = P435,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=40sqm

San Marino Square Lot w Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 7 Price = P527,000
Lot Area =76sqm Flr area=40sqm

San Marino Square Lot w Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 4 Price = P455,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=40sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 14 Lot 5 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =75sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 14 Lot 4 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 14 Lot 6 Price = P184,000
Lot Area =50sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 14 Lot 8 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =75sqm

San Marino Square Lot only
Blk 14 Lot 9 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =75sqm

San Marino Square Lot w Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 13 Price = P435,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=40sqm

San Marino Square Lot w Improvement
Blk 16 Lot 22 Price = P560,000
Lot Area =84sqm Flr area=40sqm

San Marino, Dasmariñas, Cavite

Dasmariñas, Cavite

San Marino North1 Lot only
Blk 1 Lot 9 Price = P187,000
Lot Area =35sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 3 Lot 14 Price = P255,000
Lot Area =54sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 26 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 6 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 14 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 20 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 26 Price = P254,000
Lot Area =53.5sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 45 Lot 2 Price = P1175,480
Lot Area =54sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 45 Lot 4 Price = P137,680
Lot Area =64sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 46 Lot 6 Price = P137,680
Lot Area =36sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot only
Blk 22 Lot 17 Price = P254,000
Lot Area =53.5sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot only
Blk 23 Lot 9 Price = P254,000
Lot Area =53.5sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino North1 Lot only
Blk 23 Lot 11 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 13 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 19 Price = P213,280
Lot Area =53.5sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 38 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 40 Price = P201,000
Lot Area =36sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 19 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

San Marino West3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 5 Price = P198,000
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

Carissa Homes, Tanza, Cavite

Tanza, Cavite

Phase 1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 18 Price = P152,380
Lot Area =43sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 16 Price = P185,980
Lot Area =52sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1 Lot w Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 16 Price = P135,480
Lot Area =36sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1A Lot w Improvement
Blk 40 Lot 8 Price = P135,680
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1A Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 11 Price = P175,480
Lot Area =54sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1A Lot w Improvement
Blk 63 Lot 4 Price = P139,780
Lot Area =37sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1B Lot w Improvement
Blk 45 Lot 2 Price = P1175,480
Lot Area =54sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1B Lot w Improvement
Blk 45 Lot 4 Price = P137,680
Lot Area =36sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 1B Lot w Improvement
Blk 46 Lot 6 Price = P137,680
Lot Area =36sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 2 Lot w Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 17 Price = P201,730
Lot Area =66.5sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 2 Lot w Improvement
Blk 45 Lot 21 Price = P201,730
Lot Area =61sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 2 Lot w Improvement
Blk 62 Lot 19 Price = P173,380
Lot Area =53sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 11 Lot 2 Price = P192,280
Lot Area =62sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 12 Lot 13 Price = P213,280
Lot Area =72sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3 Lot w Improvement
Blk 18 Lot 3 Price = P135,680
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3A Lot w Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 2 Price = P175,480
Lot Area =54sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3A Lot w Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 1 Price = P183,880
Lot Area =58sqm Flr area=21sqm

Phase 3A Lot w Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 11 Price = P135,680
Lot Area =35sqm Flr area=21sqm

Northridge Prime Estate, San Jose Del Monte City

San Jose del Monte

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 5 Lot 1 Price = P568,000
Lot Area =137sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 1 Price = P565,000
Lot Area =136sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 2 Price = P565,000
Lot Area =136sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 3 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 15 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 16 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 22 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 23 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 27 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 7 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 13 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 17 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 19 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 9 Lot 20 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 10 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 11 Price = P516,000
Lot Area =120sqm Flr area=36sqm

NRPE 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 10 Lot 15 Price = P389,000
Lot Area =80sqm Flr area=36sqm

Northwinds City, San Jose Del Monte City

San Jose del Monte

Northwinds 2 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 19 Lot 38 Price = P418,000
Lot Area =110sqm Flr area=28sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 26 Price = P229,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 10 Price = P377,000
Lot Area =92sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 6 Lot 22 Price = P572,000
Lot Area =159sqm Flr area=28sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 80 Price = P240,000
Lot Area =55sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 85 Price = P471,000
Lot Area =127sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 88 Price = P421,000
Lot Area =111sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 89 Price = P245,000
Lot Area =65sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 11 Lot 3 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =65sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 2B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 11 Lot 4 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =65sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 3 Lot 12 Price = P466,000
Lot Area =119sqm Flr area=26sqm

Northwinds 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 16 Price = P355,000
Lot Area =90sqm Flr area=26sqm

Northwinds 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 11 Lot 16 Price = P676,000
Lot Area =192sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 12 Lot 39 Price = P799,000
Lot Area =231sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 2 Price = P430,000
Lot Area =114sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 3 Price = P430,000
Lot Area =121sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 4 Price = P229,000
Lot Area =59sqm Flr area=25sqm

Northwinds 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 1 Lot 5 Price = P399,000
Lot Area =104sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte, San Mateo, Rizal

San Mateo, Rizal

Tierra Monte 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 16 Lot 12 Price = P466,000
Lot Area =115sqm Flr area=32sqm

Tierra Monte 1 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 17 Lot 12 Price = P378,000
Lot Area =84sqm Flr area=32sqm

Tierra Monte 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 16 Lot 22 Price = P247,000
Lot Area =50sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 15 Lot 28 Price = P306,000
Lot Area =70sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 26 Lot 9 Price = P306,000
Lot Area =70sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 3 Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 31 Lot 33 Price = P247,000
Lot Area =64sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 2 Lot 12 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 3B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 3 Lot 12 Price = P276,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4A Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 7 Lot 6 Price = P322,000
Lot Area =68sqm Flr area=32sqm

Tierra Monte 4A Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 24 Price = P925,000
Lot Area =280sqm Flr area=28sqm

Tierra Monte 4A Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 8 Lot 25 Price = P870,000
Lot Area =262sqm Flr area=28sqm

Tierra Monte 4A Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 14 Lot 23 Price = P329,000
Lot Area =78sqm Flr area=28sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 22 Lot 5 Price = P382,000
Lot Area =96sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 23 Lot 7 Price = P382,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 23 Lot 14 Price = P247,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 24 Lot 12 Price = P247,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 24 Lot 13 Price = P247,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=25sqm

Tierra Monte 4B Lot w/ Improvement
Blk 30 Lot 4 Price = P249,000
Lot Area =60sqm Flr area=32sqm

Prices indicated here subject to change without prior notice.

September 25, 2005
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The Common Man's Carabao Becomes A Work of Art—and How!

Guyito, the INQUIRER's wisecracking mascot, has come a long way from the rice fields of Jess Abrera's "A. Lipin" to the studios of some of the country's leading artists, all painted and polished in preparation for the newspaper's 20th anniversary

by Alya B. Honasan
photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento

HE WAS first known simply as Kalabaw, the loyal if somewhat sassy companion to farmer Allpio A. Lipiñ in cartoonist Jess Abrera's award-winning comic strip "A. Lipin," a humorous look at the Filipinos' plight under the Marcos regime published in the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER. "They would just talk a lot about the situation in the country," Abrera says with a laugh of the animal that always had an opinion. *"Wala lang sila magawa"* (They didn't have anything better to do). "A.Lipin" was born in 1985, in the heat of anti-Marcos sentiment, a year before Edsa.

Inevitably the boisterous bovine would endear itself to the Filipino public. "The Filipinos began to identify with him," Abrera says. "Whatever he was thinking was what the Filipino masses were thinking." The carabao's traditional image as a hard-working, simple and gentle creature who helped produce rice, the Filipino's staple, made him all the more ideal for the role of, uh, spokesman, allowing him to moo in approval or lock horns with a gallery of national figures without being taken too seriously. Putting words in Kalabaw's mouth also served a practical purpose, reveals its creator. "You couldn't sue the carabao for libel!"

It helped that the creature's silver-haired, impish creator always had the common touch, and to this day would rather hop on a jeepney than drive his own car. Abrera studied Fine Arts at the University of the Philippines, and worked as an art director before joining Mr. and Ms. Magazine and later, the INQUIRER. In 2001, his compilation of cartoons, "The Best of A.Lipin: Cartoon Strips, 1985-2000" won the Manila Critics Circle National Book Award. Abrera is currently preparing for an exhibit of cartoons at the Philippine Center in New York from October 24 to November 4.

In 1996, JUNIOR INQUIRER held a contest to name the carabao, and 20-year-old chemistry graduate Carla Omaga won with Guyito, taken from the Tagalog word for baby carabao, guya. It was a perfect moniker—Pinoy, affectionate and still a little naughty. Since then, while still making regular appearances in daily "A.Lipin" comic strips and making wry comments from the broadsheet's ear, Guyito has become a celeb of sorts, getting drawn beside heads of state from Cory to Erap, dressed up in wedding finery for a 2004 bridal fair, even hunted down in the INQUIRER's pages in last year's hugely successful Guyito Wild Hunt.

For the Inquirer's 20th anniversary, Guyito is getting some serious attention from 20 Filipino artists tasked with sprucing up a 3-D version of the star hoofer. After all, after almost 20 years in the INQUIRER family, Guyito has every reason to get all dressed up for the party.

Guyito through the years: In 3-D fiberglass (main photo); in his first appearance in Junior Inquirer in July 1996 and as better half Guyita during the 2004 bridal fair (inset, top right); co-starring in Abrera's cartoons with Erap and Cory (inset, above left)

The Mysteries That Hound An Eternal Oppositionist Then and Now, *p.2* • A Different Way of Seeing, *p.4*

Controversies

by Fe B. Zamora

Lawyer Homobono Adaza's enemies might describe him as a loose cannon, whose impish remarks and audacious actions set him off as someone to watch very closely. But one thing remains predictable about this so-called lawyer of lost causes: Somehow,he's made a career of being on the other side of the administration

The Mysteries That Hound An Eternal Oppositionist, Then and Now

PDI PHOTO

SOME TIME in the last week of July, four burly men barged into the beach house of Homobono Adaza on Camiguin Island, and told the caretaker they were sent there by the master of the house himself. The suspicious caretaker called up Manila to verify. Adaza was aghast, and ordered the caretaker to drive the men away.

But the four impostors were unstoppable. They proceeded to the Adaza abode in Cagayan de Oro City and, using the same tactics, tried to gain entrance into the house. Again, they were barred by a brave caretaker. But if Adaza thought that was the end of it, he was dead wrong.

Walking into the front desk of a hotel in Manila on Aug. 9, Adaza staggered when the receptionist told him that his companion, a certain Sonny del Rosario, had already checked in. "The clerk told me that del Rosario also asked if I had already checked in. I was shocked because I don't know this Sonny del Rosario!" Adaza exclaims. He called off his meeting at the hotel.

Tailed

Adaza says at least three men have been tailing him for some time now. He identified one of the three as a Major Cruzero. Adaza's military sources have also told him he was among the 50 or so opposition and media personalities who were being watched by the military intelligence. Adaza and retired Major Gen. Fortunato Abat top the list "because it's in alphabetical order," Adaza says with a chuckle.

Aside from being shadowed, Adaza believes he was also being monitored through his cellular phone, which kept getting calls from a silent caller who registered on his phone as a "private number." Adaza suspects the caller merely wanted to triangulate his location.

And there's the mystery of missing cellular phones, lost luggage, and strangers walking the hallway of the Monark Building on Mindanao Avenue where Adaza shares a law office with his daughter Eleanor Eileen, and son Homobono Alfonso II, both law graduates from the University of the Philipines.

Adaza glows at the mere mention of his children's achievements. His third son, Homobono Erwin III, quit law school in 2001, dismayed over what his father says was an unfair Estrada trial. Another son, Mark, is in high school. Adaza is married to Margot Dadole, a daughter of former Misamis Oriental Gov. Alfonso Dadole. The Adazas have two grandchildren, Nicole Isabel, 10, and Homobono Jacob, 6.

Befuddled

The surveillance amuses and befuddles Adaza at the same time. He rules out suspected links to the Communist Party of the Philippines as reason for the surveillance. "I can never be a communist because I talk too much," he says. "I cannot be a politician because I don't go to wakes, weddings or baptisms." He also shuns gambling, Adaza says, but would break into a song at the mere sight of a piano bar. "I love to sing," he says, smiling. His repertoire includes selections from Broadway musicals, a number of which he had actually watched during his visits to New York. His private den at his Tierra Pura home boasts of a stack of discs and hundreds of books collected from his travels abroad. He must have collected some 15,000 books kept in four libraries in his houses in Camiguin, Cagayan de Oro City and Tierra Pura, and in his law office in Quezon City. He said he began collecting books in sixth grade. In 1959, he organized a book lovers club in his Cagayan de Oro community.

A consistent honor student, Adaza graduated salutatorian in elementary and valedictorian in high school. Taking up pre-Law at the University of the Philippines, Adaza would become editor-in-chief of the Philippine Collegian for an unprecedented two years consecutively. His managing editor was Rod Reyes, who would become an ace journalist in the '60s, and later served as press secretary during the Ramos and Estrada administrations.

At the UP College of Law, Adaza would have Sen. Edgardo Angara, banker Edgardo Espiritu and businessman Enrique Zaldivar among his classmates. "They were the guys who never goofed off during final exams, while I went to watch a movie at Ideal theater in Avenida," Adaza says with a laugh. He passed the bar, practiced law in Manila but went home to Misamis Oriental and founded the Mindanao Alliance political party, which he used as vehicle to run for governor in 1980 even while the country was still under martial law.

In a trip to the US, Adaza visited exiled opposition leader Sen. Ninoy Aquino in Boston. But to get there, Adaza said he had to play a cat-and-mouse game with the Marcos men who were tailing him.

Batasang Pambansa

In 1984, Adaza would be elected member of the Batasang Pambansa, one of the handful of anti-Marcos members in the rubber stamp parliament. A year later, he filed the first impeachment case against Marcos, which was predictably junked by the administration-dominated chamber.

But being part of the administration was not Adaza's fate. When Marcos was ousted and opposition standard bearer Cory Aquino became president, Adaza somehow ended up on the opposition side. After a stint as director on the boards of the San Miguel Corporation and the Philippine National Oil Company in 1986, Adaza gravitated towards the anti-Aquino group. That same year, he exposed an alleged wiretapped conversation between Aquino, then executive secretary Joker Arroyo and then Cory speechwriter Teddy Boy Locsin. He would also file an impeachment case against Ms Aquino. He would later be linked to the 1987 and 1989 coup d'etats, for which he was charged with the landmark crime of "rebellion complex with multiple murder."

So, how come he's still free? Adaza laughs: "You know, that crime is good for nothing, nothing,"

An opposition figure then and now, Adaza has become one of the staunchest critics of the beleaguered Ms Arroyo, who faces charges that she rigged the elections in May 2004.

"GMA did not only buy the elections, she had to cheat in order to win," Adaza says. He believes Arroyo must step down, or be forcibly removed through military intervention, which he claims is provided for in the Constitution under Article II, Section 3. The article states: "Civilian authority is, at all times, supreme over the military. The Armed Forces of the Philippines is the protector of the people and the State. Its goal is to secure the sovereignty of the State and the integrity of the national territory."

Adaza argues that even people power is a constitutional process, citing again Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution, that states: "The Philippines is a democratic and republican State. Sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them."

That's why he simply ignores the stack of sedition charges hurled his way, or even the threats that government agents are monitoring his every step. "I'm not violating the law," he asserts.

Then there's the call of profession. "I'm just lawyering," Adaza declares. "It just happens that I have controversial clients," he says, laughing again.

Clientele

Adaza's clientele also happens to include almost all the officers involved in the 1987 and 1989 coup d'etats, and the young officers who seized the Oakwood posh apartelle in July 2003. He is also lawyer to Arroyo's harshest critic, Linda Montayre, and the indefatigable oust-Arroyo advocate, retired Major General Abat. Most recently, he's taken on the cudgels for former National Bureau of Investigation deputy director Samuel Ong, who exposed the explosive "Hello Garci" tapes last June.

In fact, when Ong "disappeared" from public view on June 13, he entrusted to Adaza the cassette tape said to be the "mother of all tapes," a three-hour wiretap on the conversations allegedly between former Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano with several personalities, including Ms Arroyo, her husband Mike and former Sen. Robert Barbers.

Like the opposition, Adaza believes the tape, which suggests that Ms. Arroyo was seeking assurance from Garcillano that her lead would at least be one million, will seal the fate of Ms Arroyo. "Everybody agrees that the time to oust her is now," he says. Except for one little kink. "In this country, everybody wants change, but nobody wants to move," Adaza exclaims. Not to be discouraged, however, he confides there is a group that is ready "to move, within the constitutional framework, let me be clear on that," he adds.

"This is my last battle, and unless God objects, we will get there," Adaza declares. Will his story end here? Not quite. Somehow, Adaza admits to one regret, "a part of my string of regrets," he says. And politics has nothing to do with it.

"I remember all the details," Adaza says, wistfully. It was 1971; he was in Russia travelling as guest of the Philippine-Soviet friendship organization. At the hotel, he met 26-year old Bonnie Abiko, an American recently widowed by her Japanese husband. Adaza remembers her as "brainy and ravishing." But he could not bring himself to reveal his real name to her. "She could have been a Russian spy," he laughs, "and I was scared because we didn't have an embassy there." Adaza actually introduced himself as Dr. Somo from Indonesia. No, there was no romance, but to this day Adaza still wonders: "What if she saw me on TV? Would she have said, hey, that's Dr. Somo?"

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AGUAS' TILE EXHIBIT
"Balina and Child," a tile painting by artist Bart Aguas, is part of the exhibit "Glaze 'n Craze" ongoing at Nicotina Garden Pavilion, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City until Sept. 30. The exhibit features religious and Middle Eastern motifs in 34 pieces of varying sizes. For Inquiries, call 726-7164.

ILLITERATE IN TAGALOG

Thanks for the write-up on the work of my uncle, Reuel Molina Aguila ("Crooks and the Politics of Convenience," **SIM**, 11 September 2005). I was born in the Philippines, grew up in California, and unfortunately, am virtually illiterate in Tagalog. The only link I have to understanding the deep context of my uncle's writings is by reading critiques and reviews about them. Please continue to cover his work. I check "Google" every so often and enjoy the reviews online. I realize that an English version of his work would only lose its substance and meaning, so at times I feel it's better just to read a synopsis of the content. Do you know where I can find an academic review or critique of his work? Anyway, thanks.

ANNA AGUILA
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OBJECTIVE OBSERVER

It was refreshing to read that once in a while there are still people, like Oshima and his wife, who are unaffected by the noise and swirl of the modern world. Yet they keep an eye on it with the ferocity of an objective observer using a non-verbal art, that is, photography ("Just Being There to See His Adopted Land," **SIM**, 4 September 2005). We need to be reminded from time to time that we can understand and perhaps do things better if we dissuade ourselves from making too many beautiful but useless speeches and start being honest with the talent we have, whatever it is, and pursue it fiercely in silence.

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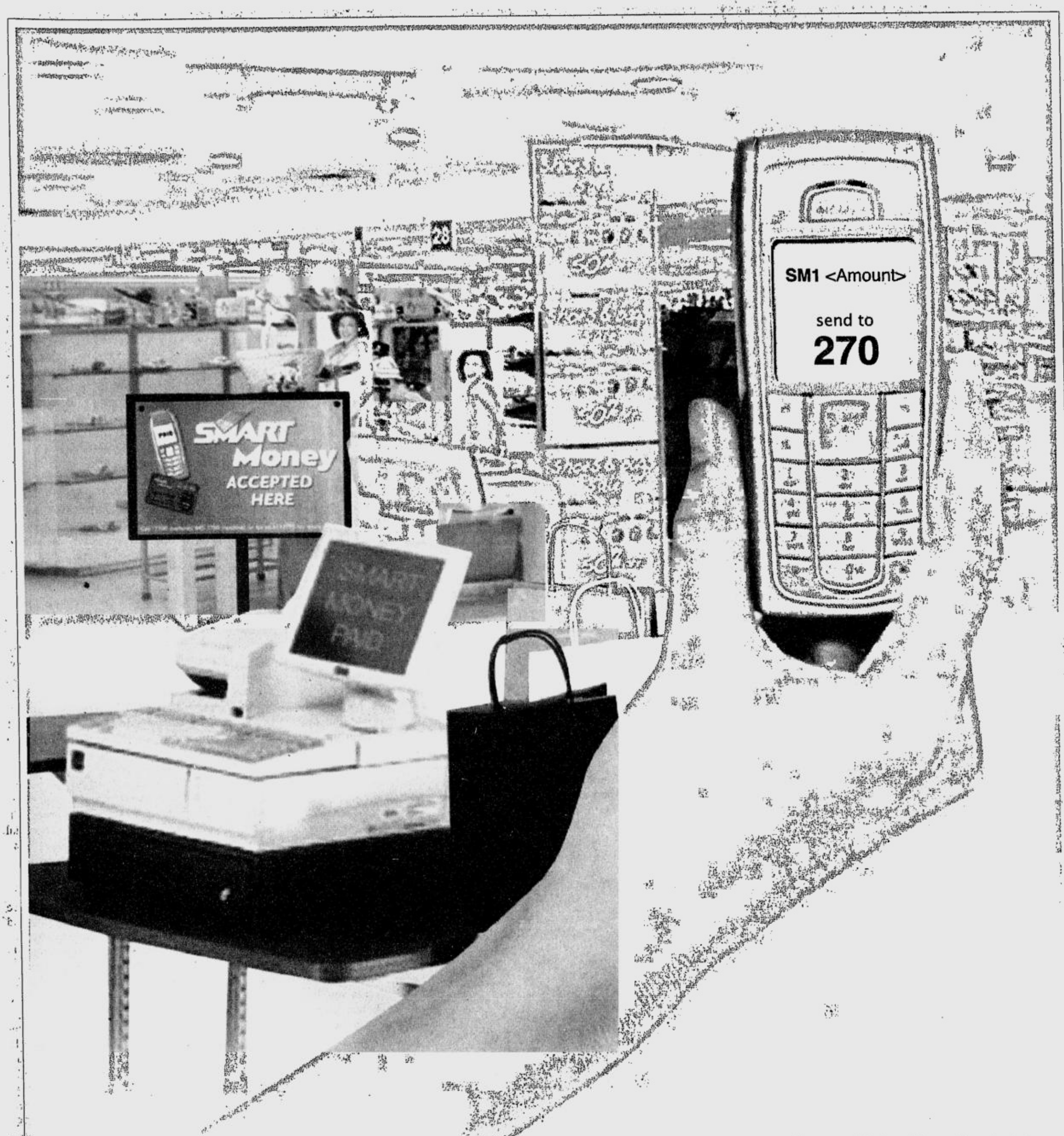

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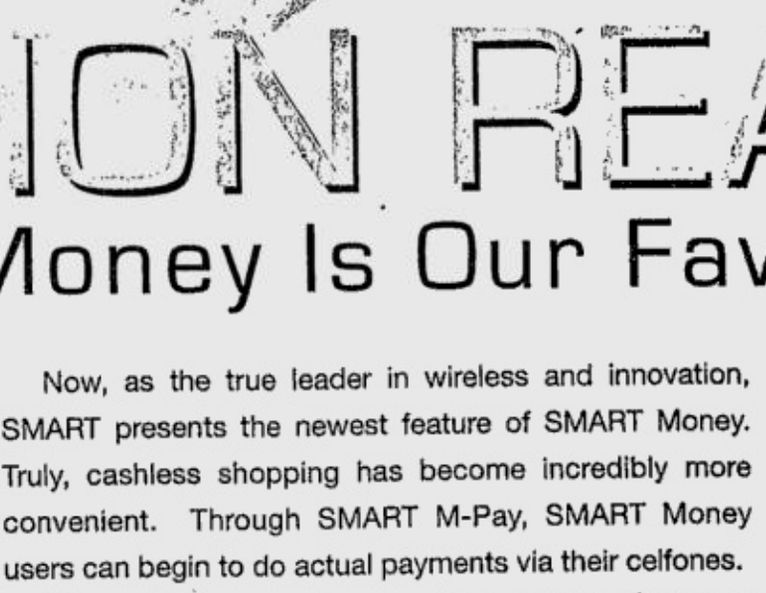

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GUYITO, the official mascot of the Philippine Daily INQUIRER, takes centerstage as the newspaper marks its 20th anniversary in December. Festivities will be highlighted by the unveiling of 20 Guyito carabao sculptures based on the character created by chief cartoonist Jess Abrera, and translated into the three-dimensional version by sculptor Juan Sajid Imao.

The INQUIRER has invited 20 of the country's veteran and emerging artists to paint the fiberglass sculptures based on the anniversary theme, "The Power of Knowing." They are: Malang, Bencab, Kidlat Tahimik, Fernando Sena, Salvador Convocar, Soler, Steve Santos, Caña, Lydia Velasco, Ernesto Patricio, Bing Siochi, Roel Obenio, Tres Roman, Wilfredo Offemaria, Bin Samonte, Jef Samonte, Romeo Forbes, Rex Tatlonghari, Anton Balao and Jack Salud.

The grand unveiling of their works is scheduled on December 5, 6 to 8 p.m., at the Greenbelt Park, Makati City.

The carabao sculptures will be donated to 20 selected cities/municipalities nationwide, to be chosen based on their high schools' rankings in the Regional Finals of the Quiz Bee Competition. Miniature versions of the Guyito sculptures will be given to the top 20 companies that have supported the INQUIRER in the past two decades.

From January to May 2006, INQUIRER representatives will visit the 20 selected schools/cities to turn over the sculptures. In addition, an INQUIRER Campus Journalism Workshop will be held in each school. The one-day lecture/workshop will feature INQUIRER reporters, editors and columnists who will discuss specific journalism topics and share their expertise on effective writing, editing and layouting. The number of student participants will be determined by the school's available venue. Delegates will be given a handbook on journalism styles, methods, ethics and best practices.

INQUIRER president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the complement of anniversary activities underscores the need for knowledge. In marking its 20th year, INQUIRER particularly hopes to motivate students to become achievers. "Through these projects, we hope to inspire the young to value reading and use it as a tool to attaining their dreams."

Starting with this issue, Sunday INQUIRER Magazine profiles the artists who have made the Guyito undertaking possible. ***SDG***

Juan Sajid Imao

A Different Way of Seeing

by Susan de Guzman

AT 34, Juan Sajid Imao is a man on a mission. As someone who has chosen sculpture as his life's work, he wants to exhaust all possible means to popularize his art form. In terms of public appreciation and market receptivity, he admits that sculptures are still edged out by paintings which enjoy wider acceptance.

For practical purposes, after all, paintings only require a flat surface to be displayed, while sculptures, because of their heft and dimension, would need a bigger space which is not always available. Imao points out that restrictive notions have also prevented sculptures from becoming more accessible.

"Unfortunately, here, the idea of sculptures has been confined mostly to *rebultos* (monuments) which are associated with dead people or cemeteries," Imao says ruefully. This is why Imao himself, who excels in classical portrait sculptures, tries to imbue his works with a suggestion of movement. Thus, instead of inert representations, he comes up with statues like those of a reading Jose Rizal and of Juan Luna while painting.

But beyond the traditional monuments, Imao wants sculptures to take the form of objects that can be appreciated in everyday life. Stylized chairs made of wood and metal, like the ones he has produced, are a step in this direction. Using materials such as metal, fiberglass and stone, Imao has also been doing functional objects such as vases, as well as small-scale sculptures for use in houses and gardens with spare spaces. In the backyard of the Imaos' Marikina home, Imao displays his class thesis: a brass sculpture of a *tikbalang* perched on a tree. The creature is holding a torch that can be lit in the evenings—an innovative, if a bit macabre, piece of art as a utilitarian item.

On a grander scale, Imao has shown what is possible with sculptures through his work called *"Kasaysayan sa Bawa't Oras"* at the Bonifacio Global City. One of the winners in the public art competition held in that complex, Imao's design is a sundial-cum-playground that boasts a massive upright half-sun as centerpiece/pointer and conjoined bronze human figures reminiscent of paper dolls as the complementing components.

The sundial's interactive nature has proven effective in drawing people to Imao's sculpture. No wonder then the artist always thinks up of projects that would similarly engage the public. Reading about the "Cows on Parade," a public art exhibition in Chicago in 1999 that featured 300 fiberglass cows that were painted or decorated by artists, Imao thought the concept could be adapted to the Philippine setting—but using carabaos, the country's national animal.

'Good news event'

Imao, who was already familiar with the INQUIRER's mascot Guyito, pitched the idea to the newspaper's president, Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez, who had been his batchmate as a Ten Outstanding Young Men of the Philippines awardee in 2001. Imao's writer-wife Cielo helped him prepare the project brief, describing the proposed exhibition as a "good-news event" focusing on the irrepressible, outspoken and cute Guyito.

By a stroke of serendipity, the national broadsheet happened to be preparing for its 20th anniversary this December. The exhibition was thus hatched as a celebratory offering for this milestone, with Imao making the fiberglass (cast resin) carabaos and 20 other artists tapped to paint them.

The sculptor's immediate task was to render Guyito in three-dimensional form. "Jess Abrera is my idol and I wanted to do justice to his creation," Imao says. He looked at the existing Guyito stuffed toys before working on the basic form, initially using clay. The most difficult part was perfecting the cartoon carabao's figure. Imao had to look at the body from all sides repeatedly, adding or subtracting clay as needed to approximate its proportions. Soon, the caricature had practically come to life, with a virtual herd of fiberglass Guyitos filling Imao's workshop.

Imao is heartened that, aside from crafting the sculpture, he has also been invited to paint his own Guyito. He etched drawings of a sarimanok and the ibong adarna on each side of Guyito, the two fabled creatures' colorful plumes seen bursting forth from the pages of an open fiberglass book. The book atop Guyito is made to look like wings, as Imao wanted to show how reading can make a child's imagination take flight. His work is aptly titled *"Guyito Kong Lumipad."*

"The print media has the power to unleash one's creativity like no other medium can," Imao says. "As a child, I remember how books could conjure many fascinating and vivid images in my mind, which I could alter as I wish. I hope this Guyito design will inspire children to discover or re-discover the wonders of reading and ultimately experience the power of imagination."

Partially blind

The artist specifically etched the designs so that even the visually impaired can touch them like Braille, and appreciate the artwork. Incorporating this tactile quality to Guyito was important for Imao, as this artist is partially blind. Afflicted with retinitis pigmentosa, a genetic ailment characterized by the progressive loss of vision, Imao can't see his periphery. He has to use a foldable walking stick and relies on the guidance of Cielo or nine-year-old son Juri when he moves about, especially in crowded places.

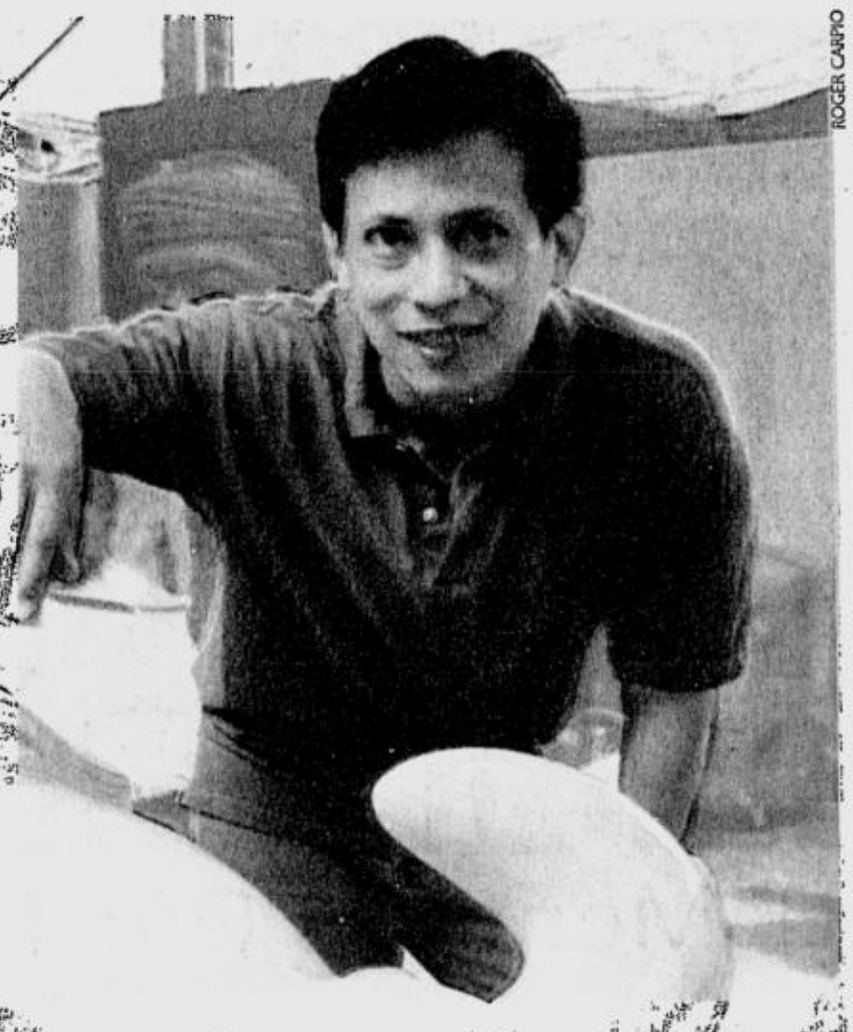
Perhaps it is his condition that encourages Imao to keep pursuing his goal of promoting sculpture in any way he can. Focused and driven, he continuously makes proposals for sculpture projects for different institutions and municipalities. For him, taking time to convince people to adopt his ideas serves as a challenge and often, he is rewarded when he is commissioned to do the work.

"I'm always dreaming of new ideas and concepts that will elicit a reaction," notes Imao, who has two assistants helping him in welding and assembling parts, particularly for large sculptures. His studio is a testament to his productivity, littered as it is with models of previous works, including the crucifix for the Church of the Gesu of the Ateneo de Manila University and a bronze rendition of the Holy Trinity.

Ultimately, Imao wants to help build a Pinoy identity in the international scene using distinctively Philippine symbols in his art. For quite some time, his work has already been inspired by the *okir*; a distinct curvilinear design commonly seen in his native Maranao art.

Imao doesn't worry about the complete loss of his eyesight, because he knows that even if he goes blind, he will continue to create his art. He contends, "I will still be able infuse feeling into my work because I won't be doing it by sight but from the heart."

For this accomplished young sculptor, the tactile element of an artwork is important, especially for people with limited sight—himself included



ROGER CARPIO

Read and fly: Imao and his work, "Guyito Kong Lumipad"

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2:30 - 3:30	Hospice Care: Cure to Care, Hospital to Home	How the Other Half Copes	Good Grief: Dealing with Grief	Wig Demos & Free haircut Free massage	Breast Reconstuction Whole Day:Free medical consultations(AHMC**)	Free copy of ICanServe Book Vol 2
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4:30 - 4:45	CLOSING					
4:45 - 5:30	SONG NUMBER BY BITUIN ESCALANTE					

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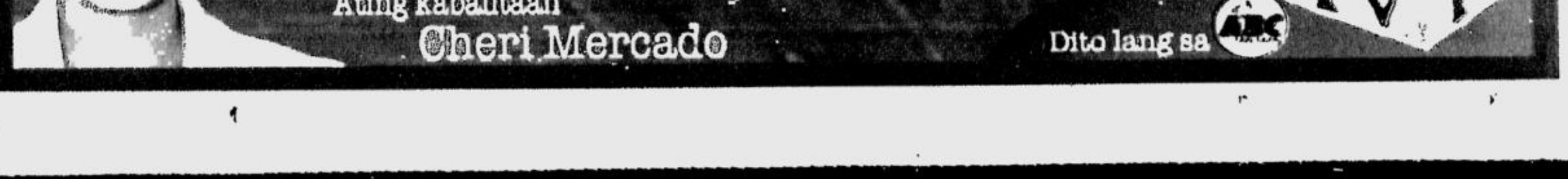


For A Cause

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Roger Margallo

Running and Biking to Help Children—and to Heal Herself

IKE any experienced athlete, Senator Pia Cayetano will stretch before a workout and apply sunscreen on her face even in the early hours of an overcast morning. Although she heads the day's big event, a 12-hour Run-Walk-Bike which she has mounted for the past three years around the wide and hilly streets of Ayala Alabang, her game plan is to go easy with an eight km run followed by laps on her bike around a hilly 12 km loop. She is, as they say in training parlance, "tapering," or winding down before an important race. In her case it's her first-ever international competition, the World Duathlon Championships, held yesterday in Newcastle, Australia. Cayetano, who is in the training pool of the National Duathlon Team, competes regularly in local run-bike-run races, and is in fact the 2003 and 2004 ladies division champ of the Clark Duathlon. Her last duathlon, accomplished a month before Australia, saw her finish 18th in a field of 55 and only 18 seconds behind the first woman to cross the finish line.

"But I cannot brag that I'm good because the level of competition is not that high," she admits with a laugh. "Obviously, the members of the National Triathlon Team are better than me, but they don't join duathlons because they'd rather concentrate on their three events (swim-bike-run). And even if there are a few strong girls in my age group, they also don't always join."

Nevertheless, the presence of an Australian coach, whom she has been training with since May, has not only upped her bike and run mileage by leaps and bounds, it's increased her confidence. Cayetano, who raced a 10 km run, 40 km bike and 5 km run with international women athletes in the World Duathlon Championships, represented the Philippines, the only Asian nation in a line-up of eight countries. "My coach told me I'm ready and my friends and colleagues in the Senate have said, 'Pia, you're a senator in your own right and what you're doing is already an honor and accomplishment.' I think, 'Yes, but I'm there competing as an athlete, not as a senator.'" Three weeks before Australia, the Senator says that her only wish "is that I'm not *kulelat*" (a big loser).

Hardly. At 39, and with a training regimen that would make people half her age weep—imagine alternating biking and running six times a week plus twice weekly sessions in the gym—the tall and lean Cayetano appears to have her best athletic years ahead of her.

Fatal disorder

So it came as a shock five years ago when Cayetano discovered something disturbing during her seventh month of pregnancy with her third child, Gabriel Rene. Diagnosed with the rare and fatal disorder trisomy 13, Gabriel was born with a cleft lip and palate, a hole in his heart, enlarged kidneys and the possibility of being both deaf and blind. Cayetano, who was working as a corporate

To page 7

Moving for a reason: Cayetano on wheels (main photo) and running with the kids during the recent 12-hour Run-Walk-Bike for Gabriel Symphony

Sports has kept her competitive and healthy all her life, and helped her cope after the tragic death of her baby boy. Today, Senator Pia Cayetano has remained active in sports—specifically cycling and running—to raise funds for disadvantaged kids, and to reach her ultimate goal: competing in the international arena

Pia...from page 6

lawyer at the time, quit her practice in 2000 to take care of her son. "What he had was chromosomal, so it can't be attributed to anything I did or didn't do," says Cayetano, whose family is a picture of perfect health. Her husband, Butch Sebastian, is a lawyer, seasoned athlete and a member of the Philippine team en route to Mount Everest in 2007; meanwhile, their two daughters, 10-year-old Maxine, and Nadine, who's 7, run, bike and play softball. "Many doctors in fact didn't know about the condition at all, and I ended up knowing more from a US-based organization of parents with children who survived trisomy 13."

Despite all her efforts, however, Gabriel passed away in October 2001, living longer than expected. "The way they term it, trisomy 13 is not compatible with life, so children born with the condition usually survive a few days or weeks; 90 percent of them pass away within the first month. I actually thought he would last a year," says Cayetano wistfully of Gabriel, who would have been four years old this year. "But it was nice to have him for nine months."

Still, this grieving mother needed something to help her heal from the pain of her tragic loss, "to move on without him, find meaning in his short life." In memory of their son, the Senator and her husband put up Gabriel Symphony, a foundation that focuses on disadvantaged children handicapped by physical, mental and financial difficulties. To date, the foundation has financed the operations of 203 children, including 63 babies with cleft lips. It has also extended assistance to kids who need kidney transplants, donated computers to blind children, gave out hearing aids to deaf children, distributed bikes to special children, provided books and educational materials to public school children, and granted support to programs, schools and teachers for special children.

Gabriel lives on as well in the annual 12-hour Run-Walk-Bike. Participants who pay the registration fee of P500 automatically contribute to the foundation's numerous beneficiaries; for 2005, it's the Ephpheta Foundation For The Blind, Parents Advocates For Visually Impaired Children, and the Philippine School For The Deaf. "There are no cash prizes here. And I'm not really offering anything new other than food, drinks and the fun of being around people who are doing what you're doing. I guess the incentive is to do your sport and know that you're doing it for a different reason today," she says. While more popular forms of fundraising have been suggested, the senator prefers to engage in an activity that best defines her. "This is what I love to do," she says. "And don't we all do better when we're doing what we like to do?"

Eldest child

The eldest child and only daughter of American Sandra Schramm and the late Senator Rene Cayetano, Pia inherited her inclination for sports from her father. Before his death from stomach cancer in June 2003, the Senator played basketball when he was well into his 40s and continued to go to the gym three to four times a week "till he was gravely ill," says Pia. "He was also into golf and those who saw him in the course will vouch that he never rode the golf cart. In fact, he sometimes ran between holes to make his game a cardio workout."

Her younger brothers were athletic as well. Congressman Allan Peter plays basketball and badminton, councilor Ren Ren was a junior golfer, and TV director Lino was a member of the University of the Philippines' varsity volleyball team. Pia, who was encouraged by her dad to pursue a variety of activities, including softball and riding, says, "We never talked about sports being just for guys. And I'm so thankful because I love sports so much."

While majoring in economics at UP, she became captain of the women's varsity volleyball team, and at 17, a member of the national volleyball team. Running remained a constant in her life. The sport that warmed her up and kept her fit for volleyball would eventually help her drop the 30-plus pounds she gained after college. Upon Gabriel's death years later, running became her refuge. Cayetano, who ran her first 42 km race, the PAL Marathon, in four hours and 17 minutes while she was in her senior year at the UP College of Law, decided to run the San Francisco Marathon in 2002, with her husband who was running 42 km for the very first time. "We even e-mailed our personal statistics to friends and asked them to place bets," she laughs. Although the senator incurred Iliotibial Band Syndrome (pain in the band of tissue that begins high in the side of the leg and extends to the outside part of the knee) weeks before the marathon, she managed to finish minutes ahead of her husband in four hours and 30 minutes. "Well, it's still a debate but he claims it's a nutritional issue," she chuckles of the outcome. "He takes all these vitamins and he left them in the Philippines. Then suddenly during the race, he swears he cramped from his neck to his legs."

After her second marathon, another challenge was in order. Urged by a friend and a brother to take up the triathlon, Cayetano obliged, cycling around the village in "a grocery-bought bike," and signing up for swimming lessons. The three-sport event will have to wait, though. "I can do a triathlon," she says. "But I'm fairly competitive, so the reason I do duathlons is because I'm a decent runner and cyclist but a bad swimmer."

Workout with wheels

Having biked around the country to spread the advocacies of her father's Compañero Foundation, one would think that Cayetano is partial to a workout with wheels. But running beats the bike any day. "I can't live without my running, I just can't," she says. "With biking, if you want to go easy, it's almost as if you're not working out. But if you want to go easy on a run, you still feel like you're exerting effort."

Cayetano, who is more excited shopping for sportswear than her staid senatorial sartorials, leans towards apparel that combines fashion with function. She doesn't mind wearing a sleeveless top when she runs, but prefers cycling shorts over traditional running shorts "because it's more comfortable and it looks better on me," she giggles. As for shoes, it's the Adidas Supernova for her—two pairs, as she is wont to alternate them during the week. "I'm fairly balanced but I'm the type who likes a lot of cushioning."

Nutritionally, the senator is "pretty much carbo-loading every day. Athletes or people who work out regularly cannot live without carbohydrates," she says. "So I still adhere to the basic balanced diet." Besides, any indulgences are most likely burned in her next long run or bike. Cayetano confesses to being a sweet tooth with a weakness for good chocolate cake and *leche flan*. "I also love *kakanin* which people from the provinces regularly send to my office," she says. "And when we were campaigning (in May 2004's national elections), man, I tried all the native goods in the *palengke!*"

Naturally, the sight of the senator in the starting line of a road race, such as the 10 km of last September's Milo Marathon, where she finished in 53 minutes, prompts endless photo-ops from fellow athletes and fans. "And that's the hard part. Especially before a race," rues an otherwise approachable Cayetano. "I have to warm up, fix my things, and psyche myself out before a race." Thereafter, good luck getting a shot of yourself with the senator once the starting gun goes off. "I think that's what works for me. *'Ay senador yan,'* they don't realize how competitive I am," she laughs. "It's only after the race when I hear, 'Wow, *pare*, the senator got ahead of me.'"

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mom on a mission: "I know I can help change the life of a child"

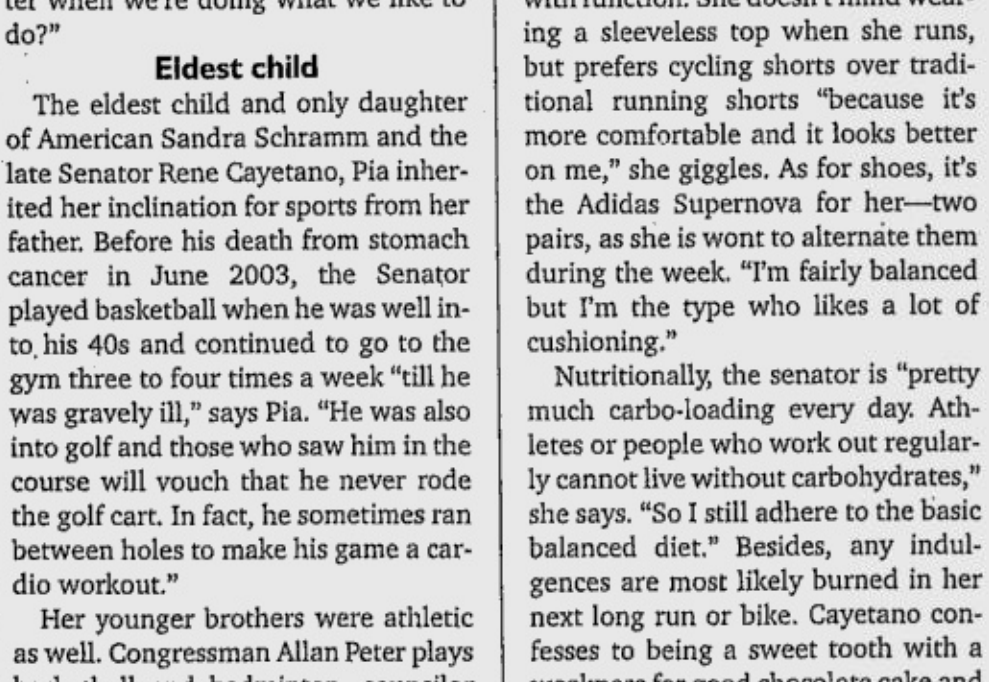
If competition keeps her mind focused on the race, it's the long, less intense runs and bike rides that allow Cayetano to let her thoughts fly. Her Breast-feeding Law, in fact, was born from one of her many long training sessions. The bill, which requires offices to provide time and a private area for working moms to pump their milk, may soon be enforced in public places like shopping malls. "My only problem," she shrugs, "is that with such great thoughts, I don't usually have a piece of paper on me to jot them down."

Disadvantaged kids

No doubt, the long hours on the road have allowed the senator to think a lot about Gabriel and how his life has impacted her as well as those of countless disadvantaged kids. "I truly believe that he was meant to help me open my eyes," she says. "It's a common thing to say 'I will help when...' and then you wait and wait until nothing happens. That's how I was. And while all my resources couldn't save my son, I know that I can change the life of a child who's blind or born with a cleft lip if I just help.

"I have to say my son knew love," Cayetano smiles at last. "Even with such a difficult life he knew love, and not just from us but from total strangers." As the handful of runners and cyclists who stayed till the final hour of the event stagger home with nothing more than blisters and body pain from a workout that was worth their time and effort, it is certain that Gabriel continues to know love. Q

Family on the move: (Seated, left to right) mom Sandra and Pia with Pia's daughters Maxine and Nadine; (standing, left to right) Ren Ren, dad Rene, Lino, Allan Peter and Pia's husband Butch, in a photo taken several years ago



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Jess Mokera

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La Salle ousts Ateneo, gains finals vs FEU

There's no stopping Aswang Festival

By Felipe V. Celino
PDI Visayas Bureau

ROXAS CITY—THE Church may frown on it but defenders say it is just the kind of event that will cast a spell on tourists

THERE'S/ A20

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US-bound boat people will miss 'Eat Bulaga'

By Volt Contreras

LY HONG HAI SAYS HE WILL SURELY MISS the native dish *sinigang*, variety shows like "Eat Bulaga!" and everything that made his life bearable despite being a "stateless" person in the only Southeast Asian country that didn't turn away boat people like him.

US-BOUND/ A5

Congress won't back martial law, says JdV

No need for such measure –Bunye

By Michael Lim Ubac, Christine O. Avendaño and TJ Burgonio

A DECLARATION OF martial law will not get the support of Congress, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia yesterday made the statement after two opposition figures claimed they had received a report that an official of the Department of Justice had drafted a presidential proclamation declaring emergency rule but stopping short of martial law.

"I will oppose martial law," said De Venecia, who had led administration lawmakers in ensuring the political survival of Ms Arroyo by quashing the impeachment cases against her early this month.

He said "a declaration of martial law would not pass Congress" because he saw "no justification" for it.

Former Solicitor General Frank Chavez said the phrase "martial law" may not have been used but the effect would be the same as people critical of the Arroyo administration would be rounded up.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay said "antecedent facts tended to lend credibility to the report."

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez denied on Saturday that his

CONGRESS/ A20

ROSE Machado wades in floodwater as her neighbor's trailer burns in Lafitte, Louisiana, after Hurricane Rita swamped the US town with a 4.6-meter surge. AP

Weakened hurricane sends crude prices falling

BEAUMONT, TEXAS—RESIDENTS along the Texas and Louisiana coasts began clearing away debris on Sunday as power crews worked to restore electricity to more than 1 million customers in four states after Hurricane Rita tore through the US Gulf Coast, causing less damage than feared.

Brent crude oil prices slipped during an unusual Sunday trading session after a weakened Rita struck the US Gulf Coast away from the Houston refining hub, although at least two refineries there were damaged.

November Brent crude, which opened at 2330 GMT for a special session on London's International Petroleum Exchange, fell 34 cents to $62.10 a barrel. US crude oil on the New York Mercantile Exchange, which shed 3.5 percent to $64.19 a barrel on Friday, was also scheduled to open its electronic Access platform early at 1400 GMT on Sunday.

America breathed a sigh of relief that the devastation caused by the once-dreaded storm was less severe than that caused by Hurricane Katrina.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry said Saturday he saw plenty of damage during a helicopter tour over the Beaumont-Port Arthur area, but added: "There's none of that just-down-to-the-foundation devastation that we saw out of Mississippi" after Katrina.

Rita downed trees, sparked fires across the hurricane zone and swamped Louisiana shoreline towns with a 4.6-meter storm surge that required daring boat and helicopter rescues of hundreds of people.

Adam Suire, 77, said he climbed into an oak tree on Friday night with his wife, daughter

WEAKENED/ A20

Gonzales to undergo treatment after stroke

By Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio and DJ Yap

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER Norberto Gonzales will undergo a common medical procedure to correct a heart problem after he suffered a mild stroke during his appearance last week before the Senate blue ribbon committee, Malacañang said yesterday.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said Gonzales' confinement at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City was a blessing in disguise because doctors were able to diagnose his heart condition.

Ermita said the 58-year-old Gonzales would probably undergo a coronary angioplasty tomorrow. The procedure, which does not involve surgery, is regarded in medical circles as fairly common. It involves pumping tiny balloons through a blood vessel and into a coronary artery to widen a blocked area that prevents the heart from functioning properly.

Even in his current condition, Ermita said Gonzales could still work normally.

Gonzales was rushed to the Heart Center on Wednesday following the Senate hearing which cited him in contempt and ordered him detained.

Senators said Gonzales had failed to explain satisfactorily questions surrounding his signing on July 25 of a $75,000 per month contract for one year with the Baltimore-based lobby firm Venable LLP.

Venable was to secure US funding for President Macapagal-Arroyo's plans to amend the Constitution and introduce a federal-type and parliamentary form of government. Critics said the arrangement invited foreign intervention in a Philippine sovereign undertaking.

With Gonzales still ailing, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon yesterday proposed that the committee instead summon Ermita to explain the Venable deal.

"Being the executive secretary, he should know this matter. Besides, he's a senior member of the National Security Council. It's his job to implement policies formu-

GONZALES/ A20

DOJ studies charges vs 'Hyatt 10'

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE plans to get back at former members of the Cabinet who belong to the so-called Hyatt 10.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday said that he had asked his staff to study the "possible liabilities" of people who had access to confidential information and were now revealing it to the public after leaving government.

Gonzalez said the study was his own initiative. "I feel I should study these things in anticipation of any situation that will arise, including the establishment (by anti-Arroyo forces) of a people's tribunal which is a hanging court, a kangaroo court," he said in a phone interview.

He said former Cabinet officials known as the "Hyatt 10" were said to be willing to testify in the people's tribunal. The members of the

MILITARY/ A20

Music is our secret weapon, says UP choir

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

ONCE AGAIN CONFIRMING THE COUNTRY's universally acknowledged excellence in the performing arts, the UP Singing Ambassadors (Upsa) brought home yet another haul of awards from four prestigious choral competitions in Europe.

The good news came just in time for the 25th anniversary of the choral group, which is based at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Led by conductor Ed Manguiat, the 33-strong choir wowed audiences in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Italy and Spain where they won various top prizes, including a grand prize and several first place and people's choice honors.

On May 22, Upsa placed fourth in the Chamber Choir category at the 28th Prof. George Dimitrov International May Choir Competition in Varna, Bulgaria.

On June 25, Upsa scored a triple whammy at the 3rd International Choir Competition of Sacred Music, Prague, the Czech Republic: Grand Prize (laureate of the festival), First Prize (Mixed

MUSIC/ A6

THE UP SINGING AMBASSADORS has won a slew of prestigious awards in recent competitions in Europe. In performances that exemplified the best in Filipino talent, the singers melted the hearts of audiences in four countries.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Western Luzon and Western Visayas will be mostly cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/09/26/05

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy.
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy.
Catapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

US report: RP needs to do more

By Nikko Dizon

A SENIOR US STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL HAS expressed disappointment over the prevalence of corruption in the top echelons of the Philippine government, as indicated during the recent impeachment hearings against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"President Arroyo's recent impeachment hearings prove that much more must be done to promote good governance and transparency," Eric John, deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, told a US congressional hearing in Washington, D.C.

John said the US maintains a "significant trade and investment relationship with the Philippines" but noted that the country was facing "some major economic challenges."

He said the country must "modernize its tax and customs bureaucracies and undertake effective anticorruption measures" to achieve fiscal sustainability.

According to the website of the US Embassy in Manila, John testified on Sept. 21 at a hearing of the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific of the House International Relations Committee. The state official articulated his assessment while discussing the US-RP alliance in fighting global terrorism.

The hearing was one of those regularly scheduled in Congress, Matthew Lussenhop, US Embassy press attaché, told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

"Mr. John is new (in his position). He (went) up for the first time to give an overview in foreign policy," Lussenhop said.

But Lussenhop declined to expound on the state official's assessment of the Arroyo government.

"That's his assessment and those are his words," Lussenhop said.

The state department official's comments came on the heels of an INQUIRER series of reports on the US assessment of the Arroyo administration and Philippine politics.

The US Embassy in Manila had refused to comment on the reports which analyzed the volatile political situation in the country.

Some of the reports were believed to be among the classified documents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation that were downloaded and passed on by FBI intelligence analyst Leandro Aragoncillo and former Philippine police official Michael Ray Aquino to some top Filipino politicians.

The two have been arrested and charged with espionage by the FBI.

John told US lawmakers that America continues to "strengthen (its) bilateral ties with the Philippines, particularly in the Global War on Terrorism."

"While we were disappointed at its subsequent withdrawal from Iraq, our alliance remains strong, and we continue to cooperate on a broad range of issues," John said.

COPW CALLS ON CONGRESS TO IMMEDIATELY AMEND THE EVAT LAW

Consumer & Oil Price Watch (COPW) urges the Senate and the House of Representatives to immediately AMEND the Expanded Value-Added Tax (EVAT) Law, before it is implemented.

1. Reduce the VAT on oil products and power to 3% instead of 10%.
2. Lift the 70% cap on input VAT of businesses.

If the EVAT is not amended, COPW is concerned that **PRICES OF ALL GOODS & SERVICES WILL GO UP.**

This will affect everybody but will hit the **POOR** the hardest and at the worst time when their incomes are NO longer sufficient to meet their basic daily needs.

REDUCE THE VAT ON POWER & OIL FROM 10% TO 3%

1. Aware of the difficult times that Filipino consumers endure, COPW has always maintained, during the Senate & House deliberations, the position that the EVAT for petroleum products and electricity should ONLY be 3%.
2. The House proposal to defer the EVAT on power and oil until June 2006 does NOT address the problem because no one can predict when the prices of petroleum products will go down due to a WORLD SHORTAGE of REFINING capacity.
3. On January 1, 2006, the EVAT will automatically increase from 10% to 12% causing additional burden to the consumers.

70% CAP ON INPUT VAT WILL IMMEDIATELY INCREASE PRICES OF GOODS & SERVICES BY 8% TO 12%

1. The prices of practically ALL products will go up if the provision on the 70% cap on input tax under Section 110 (B) is NOT amended.
2. If only 70% of the input VAT is allowed to be deducted, business will have no choice but to pass on the remaining 30% through price increases. This will result in price increases of 8% to 12% to consumers as goods and services move thru the cascading effect of a minimum four-level chain --- Supplier, Manufacturer, Distributor, and Retailer.
3. It may result in the closure of some businesses, particularly those in retail and distribution, whose profit margins are less than 1 percent of their sales.

OTHER CONCERNS OF THE BUSINESS SECTOR

1. **Corporate Income Tax Increase from 32% to 35%**

   The Corporate Income Tax Increase from 32% to 35% is an additional tax burden to businesses. The Philippines today already has one of the highest tax structures in the world. Further increasing the tax rate to 35% will make the Philippines less competitive in attracting investments.

2. **5-year Amortization of Input VAT on Capital Goods**

   Section 110 (A) (2) provides amortization of input VAT on capital assets for 60 months if the aggregate acquisition cost is more than P1 Million. This section penalizes capital-intensive industries and discourages direct investments, both foreign and local.

DETERMINED EFFORT TO FIGHT GRAFT & CORRUPTION

Government should intensify its drive to **go after and prosecute tax evaders and smugglers** under the **RATE** (Run After Tax Evaders) and **RATS** (Run After The Smugglers) campaigns of the Department of Finance **(DOF)**.

DOF should NOT make up the short fall in revenue by further burdening the consumers and legitimate businessmen through higher taxes.

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1 more Church official blames 'the messenger'

By Christian V. Esguerra

ANOTHER SENIOR CATHOLIC PRELATE HAS slammed the media for portraying the Church hierarchy as divided over questions of the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration.

"There seems to be a lack of common sense perspective in some media people," Cotabato Archbishop Orlando Quevedo said in a three-page statement circulated among fellow church leaders since Thursday.

"The bishops would agree with the complaint of (Ricardo) Cardinal Vidal who was reported as saying that it is media that (is) creating the image of division among the bishops," he said.

Vidal had lambasted the media on the eve of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines permanent council's meeting on Sept. 13 that tackled the political crisis buffeting President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Way before the "Hello Garci" wiretap scandal broke out, outgoing CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla had also sniped at the media for supposedly misquoting some prelates in an alleged effort to pit them against one another.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz, easily the most widely quoted of the country's 119 bishops lately, came to the media's defense, however.

"Media people simply report what they hear and understand," he told the INQUIRER in a text message yesterday.

But Cruz, himself a former CBCP president, said it was wrong to perceive the bishops as divided.

"We do not agree always. But no one really becomes an enemy of the other," he said.

In his statement, Quevedo, another ex-CBCP president, was upset about a recent INQUIRER report on a group of bishops meeting separately from the CBCP permanent council.

Neither a "militant faction" nor a "pressure group," the bishops in fact belonged to a "reflection group" that usually met to discuss current "pastoral situations so that they would be personally guided by their reflection," the archbishop said.

Quevedo denied suggestions the gathering was meant to pressure the permanent council into coming up with a stronger statement on how the country must deal with and resolve the political crisis.

"At a time of political divisiveness, would the bishops insanely add fuel to the fire? That would be an extraordinary lack of common sense," he said.

Step up attacks, CPP orders NPA

LUCENA CITY—THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF the Philippines has ordered its faction, the New People's Army, to intensify attacks against government forces in a bid to frustrate what it sees as a plan of the Arroyo administration to impose martial rule, "whether declared or undeclared."

"The tactical offensives of the NPA will also serve to tie down the fascist force in the battlefields to allow more berth and leeway for the Filipino people's open street protests," the CPP said in a statement issued by its Party Information Bureau obtained by the INQUIRER.

The CPP also called on the rank-and-file and officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and Philippine National Police to refuse to follow "repressive orders" of the administration and fight the "restoration of martial law."

Last week, Malacañang warned the police were ready to disperse protesters staging rallies without permits and effect arrests as part of its "calibrated preemptive response" to antigovernment demonstrations.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo stated last week that the government was not considering imposing emergency rule in the face of continued antigovernment rallies, especially in the financial district of Makati City.

The CPP said what the government called "calibrated preemptive response" was a euphemism for steps preparatory to martial law.

"The repressive measures in line with (President) Arroyo's CPR policy are very much akin to the ones (the late dictator Ferdinand) Marcos made on the eve of martial law," the CPP said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

AEDC ready to go to court over Naia 3

ASIA'S EMERGING DRAGON CORP., now controlled by taipan Lucio Tan, will go to court to convince the Arroyo administration it has the sole right to operate the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, according to the firm's lawyer.

"In the next two weeks, if we don't get any response from the government or if we get a negative response, then we would file a special civil action with the courts based on AEDC's agreement with the government in 1996," said AEDC lawyer Perfecto Yasay Jr. in an interview.

Yasay said AEDC was starting to attract new investors like a Chinese and a European group after it asserted its right to operate Naia 3. He did not elaborate.

Established by the country's six Chinese-Filipino taipans during the Ramos administration, AEDC submitted an unsolicited offer then to put up and operate Naia 3 for $350 million.

But when the project was subjected to a Swiss challenge, the Ramos administration said Philippine International Air Terminals Co. Inc. (Piatco) had submitted a better offer.

AEDC has offered to pay the government $300 million to operate Naia 3. Business tycoon Emilio Yap's Manila Hotel Corp., now the majority owner of Piatco, had also asked the Arroyo administration to let it run the mothballed Terminal 3.

Manila Hotel is buying Fraport AG's 61 percent stake in Piatco for $200 million. It had acquired the combined 20 percent interests of Sojitz Corp. and SB Airport Investment Corp. in Piatco for $30 million. Fraport was a partner of Piatco. *Clarissa S. Batino*

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Loren bares theft of padlocks

By Cynthia D. Balana

FORMER SEN. LOREN LEGARDA has asked the Supreme Court to look into the forcible opening of ballot boxes and the theft of their padlocks in Tabagon, Cebu, where Vice President Noli de Castro garnered the biggest lead over her in the 2004 vice presidential election.

In a nine-page comment filed with the high court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal (PET), Legarda urged the body to direct the Commission on Elections to immediately conduct a thorough investigation of the incident which occurred between February and April 2005.

Cebu was one of three pilot provinces cited by Legarda in her election protest against De Castro where she demanded a recount of votes because of alleged electoral fraud.

Legarda said the breach of security in Tabagon was another "brazen and bare-faced attempt" to sabotage her election protest.

"This is shameless, and only God knows what other operations have been carried out and are being effected as I speak to cover up the massive fraud in the 2004 elections," Legarda told the INQUIRER.

"Taken with the Newsbreak report of a break-in at Congress to allegedly tamper with the ballot boxes there, this incident at Tabagon gives us an idea on the immensity of what could be a top-to-bottom effort to cover up poll fraud," she said.

The provincial election officer of Cebu, Edwin Cadungog, exposed the alleged tampering of ballot boxes in the town in a report he submitted to the PET.

"This could just well be the tip of the iceberg," Legarda said.

Earlier, she underscored the importance of starting the recount and retabulation phase of her election protest, especially since she had already deposited P4 million to cover expenses.

Legarda said the theft of padlocks and opening of ballot boxes were in violation of the orders of the PET and Comelec to preserve the integrity of ballot boxes in question pending their actual retrieval and transfer to the PET for a recount of votes.

Legarda asked the PET to allow her lawyers to conduct an ocular inspection of the said ballot boxes in the presence of Comelec and Cebu provincial treasury personnel to check their physical condition as well as the buildings where they were stored.

Legarda's lawyers, meanwhile, called attention to the seriousness of the incident, noting that it was in the province of Cebu where De Castro supposedly garnered the biggest vote margin over Loren.

"Under the circumstances, protestant Loren is not prepared to take this Tabagon incident as a simple theft... in view of the critical importance of the province of Cebu to the instant electoral protest, the unreasonable delay in the discovery of the reported breach of security and the nature of the reported breach of security," said lawyers Sixto Brillantes and Jesus Casila.

PCGG pushes for transfer of 27% SMC stake to gov't

By Nelson F. Flores

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government (PCGG) has asked the Sandiganbayan First Division to order the turnover of the sequestered 27-percent stake in San Miguel Corp. to the government.

In a 28-page memorandum, the PCGG, through the Office of the Solicitor General, said the May 7 court ruling declaring the government as the owner of the sequestered shares was a "final judgment" and was therefore immediately executory.

The court decision said the government owned the shares in "trust for all coconut farmers." The shares, which were acquired from the Soriano family, were registered in the names of six coconut oil mills owned by the Coconut Industry Investment Fund and 14 CIIF holding companies.

The six CIIF companies were the Southern Luzon Coconut Oil Mills, Cagayan de Oro Oil Co. Inc., Iligan Coconut Industries Inc., San Pablo Manufacturing Corp., Granexport Manufacturing Corp. and Legaspi Oil Co. Inc.

The government is also claiming a second block of shares comprising 20 percent of SMC registered stocks in the name of SMC chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. and his various companies.

But the Sandiganbayan has yet to rule on the ownership of the 20 percent stake which Cojuangco claimed he acquired from the Ayala family.

In its memorandum, the OSG said, "Clearly, the subject Partial Summary Judgment dated May 7, 2004, finally disposed of plaintiff's claim as far as the CIIF block of SMC shares is concerned. The same may be executed independent of the judgment that may ultimately be rendered in respect to the latter claim (concerning the 20 percent block)."

Cojuangco has filed a manifestation in court on his intention to appeal the May 7, 2004, ruling and insisted that a full-blown trial was required to determine actual ownership of the shares.

The OSG, however, pointed out that "such an appeal would be merely dilatory.

It would be recalled that defendants Cojuangco Jr. et al. have judicially professed disinterest in the CIIF block of SMC shares."

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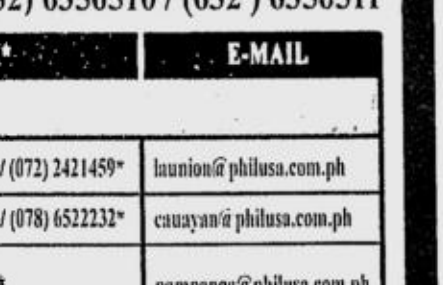

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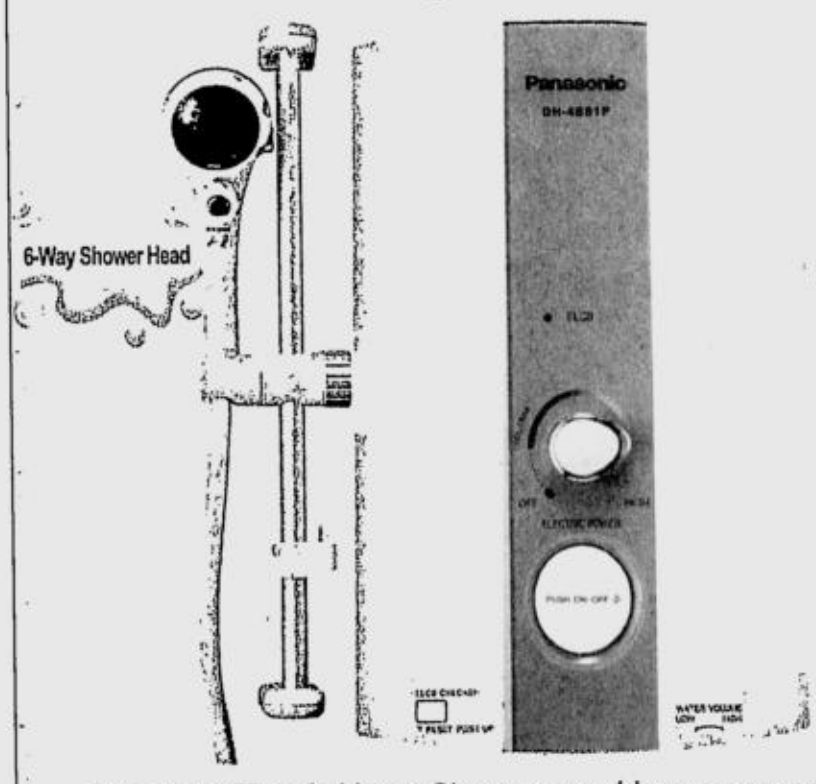

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US-bound boat people will miss 'Eat Bulaga'

From page A1

Together with his wife Nga and two small children, Ly belongs to the first batch of 229 Vietnamese who are flying to Los Angeles today thanks to a humanitarian accord between the United States and the Philippines that grants US resettlement to the last remaining asylum seekers from Vietnamese communist rule.

Their chartered flight leaves the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at around 11 a.m. They were initially scheduled to have left at 2:45 a.m. but the flight was postponed due to Hurricane Rita.

The April 2004 agreement is expected to benefit an estimated 1,600 Vietnamese in the next six months and is deemed the closing chapter in the saga of the boat people who had sought refuge in the Philippines by the tens of thousands since 1975.

They once lived in camps run by the United Nations in Morong, Bataan, and in Puerto Princesa, Palawan. In 1989, the international community meeting in Geneva decided that those fleeing Vietnam were "economic migrants" and not refugees, or people fleeing a well-founded fear of persecution.

When the shelters closed down in 1996, the Vietnamese dispersed throughout the country, vulnerable as they lacked legal papers that would allow them to work or study.

A majority of the boat people eked out a living in the underground economy as street or market vendors, blending with the populace without losing their identity. (Those who stayed and formed a village in Palawan, in fact, still hold gatherings for the Tet or Lunar New Year festivities, singing the national anthem of the now non-existent South Vietnam).

Their children faced difficulties enrolling in schools; those who got admitted were either eventually kicked out or could not apply for jobs after graduation.

They survived the system generally through accommodation by local authorities.

But all that seems behind them now, especially for the Lys.

The INQUIRER saw them and their other US-bound compatriots on Saturday in a cramped office in Baclaran which had a free legal assistance desk for the Vietnamese.

Noodle house left behind

On the eve of the new life awaiting his family, 39-year-old Ly made sure his parting message to his host country bore no trace of their past hardships. *"Maraming salamat po,"* he said in halting Filipino.

Through an interpreter, Ly said he got nothing but "kindness from the government and the Filipino people" from his years confined in a camp to his struggling days as a peddler of footwear, clothes, perfume and underwear in the streets of Puerto Princesa.

Ly had operated a Vietnamese *chao long* noodle house in the provincial capital since the late '90s. He owned the business but, due to his stateless status, had the license issued in the name of a Filipino friend.

He conceded that "in any society" aliens like him were vulnerable to abuse and unpleasant encounters with the locals. "*Minsan may mga loko talaga* (Sometimes there are really rascals)," he smiled.

But when urged to recall specific incidents, he said there was no need to talk about them as these were "too petty compared to the warmth and hospitality I received from the Filipinos."

Fresh out of high school, Ly got on a motorized fishing boat with 154 others mostly from the Vietnam city of Phu Yen in August 1989. They spent five days at sea and made their supply of rice and drinking water last by rationing them in "bottle caps."

Their boat finally found friendly waters off the shores of Batangas.

Asked why he had dared to leave his homeland and his entire family behind, Ly said he wanted to "escape from the communist government" under which there were "no human rights."

His Chinese-blooded family particularly suffered discrimination, he said. Their family-owned soap factory was confiscated by the state and the children were barred from attending university.

Forced labor

"I miss my family so much, but I have to do it [flee] for my own life," he added.

"They sent my mother into forced labor," recalled Dang Thi Lot, 38, another asylum seeker set to leave for LA, sharing the reasons she braved the waves of the South China Sea in May 1989.

She said the communist government was also harsh on her family because her father used to serve with the defeated South Vietnamese army.

Dang sailed off also from Phu Yen on a boat shared by 31 people. They were "rescued" 12 days later by Filipino fishermen off Subic Bay. Her family also was housed in the Palawan camp and moved to Pasay City after the facility closed down.

Filipino friends

She had since been a market vendor in Alabang, Muntinlupa, selling footwear and clothes.

Like Ly, she said "thank you" to the government and the Filipinos, especially those who "helped me with my Tagalog and helped me find my way around the city as well as find contacts for my business."

The LA trip made the day particularly busy for Australian-Vietnamese lawyer Trinh Hoi, whose Baclaran office had been the go-to place for the boat people following up on their resettlement cases.

"The fact that they chose to be stateless persons here living in legal limbo speaks volumes about the situation in Vietnam," said Trinh, who heads the Manila office of the Vietnamese Community in Australia.

With a staff of Vietnamese volunteers from here and Australia, Trinh has been in and out of the Philippines in the last eight years, providing free legal aid to the asylum seekers.

Going against the tide

"The Philippines is the only country in Southeast Asia that did not force the asylum seekers back to where they were being persecuted. You went against the international tide at the time," Trinh said.

In February 1996, the Ramos administration launched a "forced flight" that sent 84 rejected asylum seekers back to Vietnam. But the move was discontinued after that first trip because of pressure from nongovernment organizations and the Catholic Church, the lawyer recalled.

But not everyone in the VCA office was in a light, farewell mood. Trinh said he was still working on over 70 cases of Vietnamese who were "denied" US resettlement just because they had married Filipinos.

Such is the case of Ngo Din Hun Ngan, 30, a longtime peddler of fabrics, shoes, hair clips and other dry goods in Olongapo City, where he wed Pilar Colorado, 33. They now have two children.

"Of course I want to go to America," said the brooding Ngo, who landed in the Philippines at age 15 on a vessel carrying 44 passengers from Nha Trang. "Now, I don't know where else to go."

"Can't we ask the US to review our case? Our marriage should not be a reason to be excluded. It's not our fault," his wife Pilar pleaded.

Under the April 2004 agreement, Trinh said, the Philippines is supposed to "make best efforts" to offer permanent residency to remaining Vietnamese, like Ngo, whom the United States would not take in.

"But that still doesn't mean anything to them until now," he said, urging the government, particularly the Department of Justice and Congress, to address the predicament of "human lives stuck in the twilight zone of bureaucracy and laws."

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, September 26, 2005
26th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Zec 8:1-8
Gospel: Luke 9:46-50

One day the disciples were arguing about which of them was the most important. But Jesus knew their thoughts, so he took a little child and stood him by his side. Then he said to them, "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me. And listen: the one who is found to be the least among you all, is the one who is the greatest."

Then John spoke up, "Master, we saw someone who drove out demons by calling upon your name, and we tried to forbid him because he doesn't follow you with us." But Jesus said, "Don't forbid him. He who is not against you is for you."

Commentary

The disciples just don't get it. They ignore what they don't want to hear and act like everything is going according to their plans. Who's the greatest is the subject under discussion. Jesus knows about their petty arguing and brings forth a child and puts him or her by his side! "Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me, welcomes the one who sent me." Listen (and obey) the least among you is the greatest, the servant is the one who goes before the others—to the cross and on the way. They are to forget about power and seek to serve, to follow and to disappear and to forget about others who aren't in their group—leave them be and let God work in them as He wishes to. Who's the greatest? Remember the child is the one without status, power, influence, place in society, has to obey everyone bigger or stronger, has no rights and was considered nothing more than a slave or person servant at everyone's beck and call. How are we doing as children of God, welcoming others in God's name?

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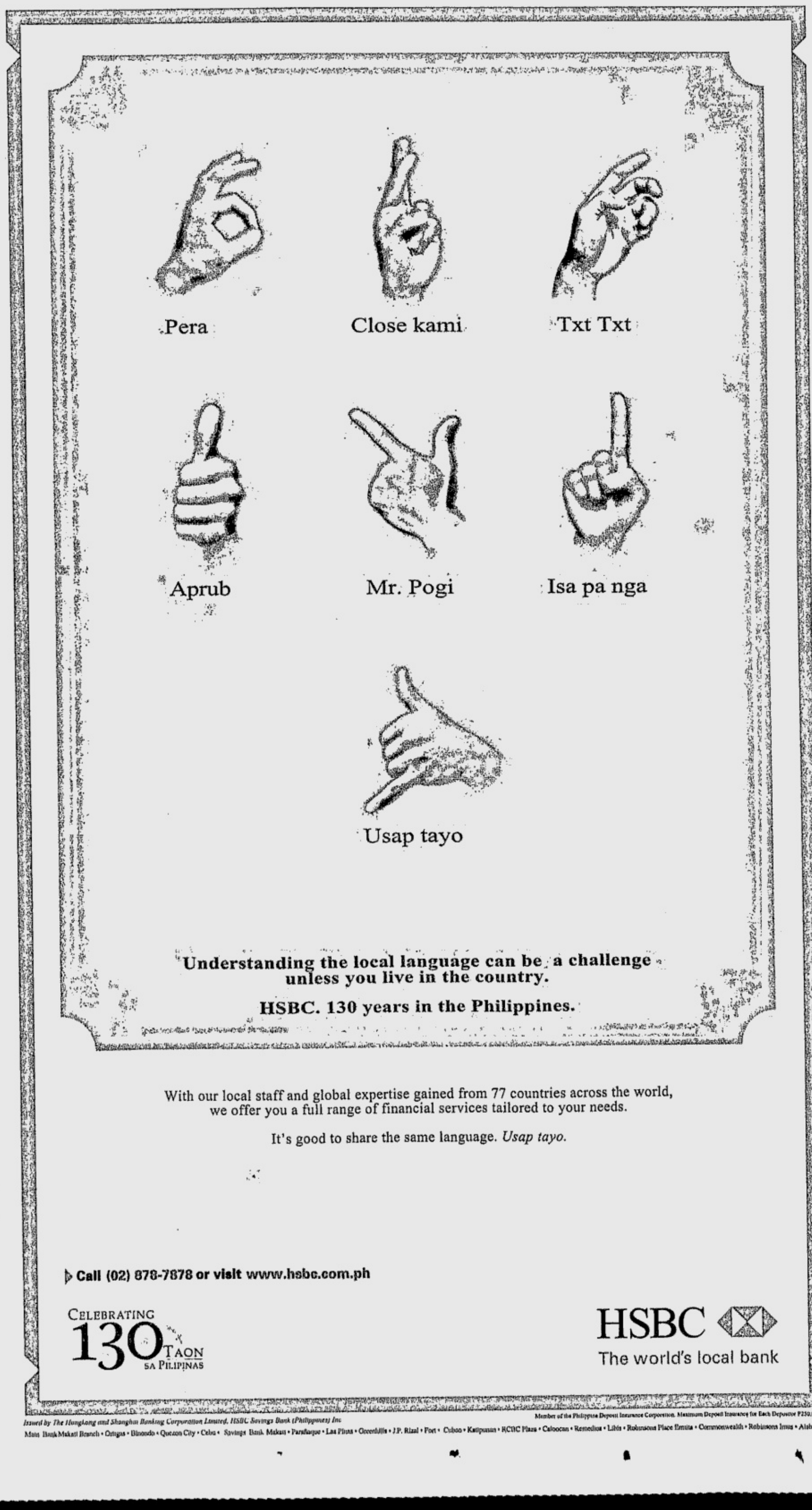

'Music is our secret weapon'

UP SINGING Ambassadors serenade the PDI editorial staff. REM ZAMORA

From page A1

Choir category) and First Prize (Chamber Choir category).

On July 11, Upsa clinched three awards at the 44th C.A. Seghizzi International Choral Competition in Gorizia, Italy: First Prize (Folkloric category), Best Interpretation of an Obligatory Piece and Prize of the Public (People's Choice).

Finally, Upsa emerged triumphant at the 51st Certamen Internacional de Habaneras y Polifonia in Torrevieja, Spain, with three awards: First Prize (Polyphony category), Best Interpretation of the Habanera and Premio del Publico (People's Choice).

A big honor

"We are very happy for all these honors, but most especially for the awards from the audience," Manguiat told the INQUIRER. "To be chosen by the public as their favorite from among all the competitors is a big honor."

The group visited the INQUIRER on Friday and gave scintillating samples, a capella, of the songs that had captivated their audiences in Europe. Its interpretation of "Over the Rainbow" from the movie "Wizard of Oz" and "Moon River" from "Breakfast at Tiffany's" silenced the INQUIRER newsroom at critical deadline time.

"It is uncommon for an Asian country to win in these competitions," Manguiat explained. "I believe it was the first time for Asians to do so."

Sadly, they had to grapple with racial prejudice abroad.

"Foreigners usually snub choirs from Third World countries," Manguiat said.

"There's discrimination in that sense. But we have a secret weapon: Our music. After they heard us sing, their cold hearts melted. In fact, they were the ones who first approached us to congratulate us after our performance. We felt great and vindicated, especially after we received a standing ovation in France," he said.

Aside from the competitions, Upsa also attended music festivals in France and Italy this year. It serenaded patients in a cancer ward in Italy, inmates in a prison in France and the elderly in institutions in Switzerland and France.

Grand slam

It seems Upsa has made it a habit to win awards on its European tours. The group scored a grand slam in 2001, bagging five first prizes and two grand prizes in top competitions in Italy, Spain, Belgium, Slovakia and Germany.

The funny thing is not one of the Upsa members is a music major. Current Upsa members are enrolled in diverse courses—from child development to math, from mechanical engineering to tourism, from business administration to statistics.

One is even a high school student.

"We have an outreach program in which we give free voice training to non-UP students," he said. "There are three scholarship recipients now: two high school students and an architecture graduate."

To celebrate its triumphant European tour, Upsa is giving two homecoming concerts—on Oct. 6, 7 p.m., at the Church of the Risen Lord in UP Diliman and on Oct. 22, 7 p.m., at the Philamlife Auditorium on UN Avenue in Manila.

Upsa's sponsors include Imelda Cojuangco, Ambassador Philippe Lhuillier and PJL Foundation, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Washington Sycip and Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp.

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Military ends hunt for Abus in 2 towns

THE GOVERNMENT HAS agreed to halt offensives in two Central Mindanao towns aimed at capturing Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khadaffy Janjalani to allow displaced villagers and Moro guerrillas to return home, officials and the rebels said yesterday.

Hundreds of soldiers, including US-trained commandos, have scoured the mountainous hinterlands of Talayan and Guindolongan towns in Maguindanao province since July but have failed to capture Janjalani, who is wanted by both Manila and Washington for alleged involvement in deadly terror attacks.

Officials and Moro Islamic Liberation Front guerrillas, who are engaged in talks with the government and are helping in the search for Janjalani, said military troops would stop the hunt for the Abu Sayyaf bandits and withdraw by the end of the month to allow villagers to return home and rebels to reoccupy their camps.

Hundreds of villagers have fled their homes and MILF guerrillas have withdrawn from their camps to allow government troops to pursue Janjalani and his Abu Sayyaf bandits who have been sighted in the area along with a number of suspected militants belonging to the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah.

The MILF has twice extended a deadline for the troops to end the assaults against the Abu Sayyaf, according to both sides.

"It's important to put an end, a timeframe to these operations because many villagers have been suffering and wanted to go back to their homes and farms," MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said.

An agreement in principle was forged by the government and the MILF during Malaysian-brokered peace talks in Kuala Lumpur two weeks ago. Both sides also agreed to provide relief and livelihood to displaced villagers.

Chief government peace negotiator Silvestre Afable said the military withdrawal from the two towns would allow villagers and MILF rebels to observe the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Afable added the military's "high-value targets are no longer there," suggesting Janjalani was no longer in the area.

JANJALANI: Elusive as ever

Both Afable and Kabalu said the military could continue offensives against Janjalani elsewhere in the province.

Kabalu said Janjalani, along with two other Abu Sayyaf leaders—Abu Sulaiman and Isnilon Hapilon—had reportedly split into small groups to avoid detection, never staying in the same spot longer than a week.

The three bandits are wanted by Washington for the kidnapping of a number of Americans, one of whom was beheaded by the militants.

The Abu Sayyaf has also been blamed for recent deadly bombings, including an explosion that set a ferry on fire last year, killing 116 people in the country's worst terrorist attack.

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'Jueteng' alive and well in Bicol, says ex-operator

By Christian V. Esguerra

HAS "JUETENG" really been eradicated or is it still being played under an ingenious legal cover?

Confessed former jueteng operator Wifredo "Boy" Mayor returned last week to his old turf in the Bicol region and found that the illegal numbers game still enjoyed brisk business there—just like in the old days.

"It was never really stopped," Mayor told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

In Albay, he said, a "modified version" of jueteng was being played with the two-number choices trimmed between the numbers 1-31 to make it similar to the legal EZ2 game of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Hidden

The strategy keeps authorities at bay because bet collectors go around with pads of EZ2 tickets, under which the bets for jueteng are hidden, Mayor said.

"When you check, you'll find out that the official results for the EZ2 [draw are] very much different," he said. "This shows that EZ2 is just being used as a front."

Mayor, who admitted being a jueteng lord in Bicol from 1995 to 2001, said he learned about the new tactic after asking several people to place bets. He said he also met with some of his former bet collectors who told him the big-time jueteng lords were still running the show through fronts.

Waiting

"They're just waiting for the jueteng scandal to completely fizzle out and they'll be back," Mayor said. "They know too well that it's not wise to invest primarily in protection money these days when the spotlight is on jueteng."

To prove that jueteng was alive and well in Bicol, Mayor rattled off to the INQUIRER the winning numbers in different areas of the region on Sept. 18, 19 and 20. He said jueteng was so popular that draws were held thrice daily—at 11 a.m., 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Combinations

In the third district of Albay, he said the winning combinations during the three-day period were 13-25, 24-24 and 6-15.

In the first district of Sorsogon, the winning numbers in Barangay Pilar on Sept. 20 were 21-17, 31-19 and 17-17, he said.

The same day, he said, draws in the second district were held in a house on the boundary of Gubat and Uban towns. The results were 13-31, 27-1 and 18-28.

Jueteng was also being played in San Pablo, Laguna, he said, where the draws on Sept. 17 were held in Barangay San Ignacio with the winning combinations being 15-12, 28-29 and 19-31.

In Laguna proper which covers Sta. Rosa and Biñan towns, Mayor said draws occurred in a house in Barangay San Vicente, Biñan.

He said the gambling operators were awaiting a meeting on Oct. 1 to discuss the Small Town Lottery (STL), a legalized form of jueteng being pushed by the government's anti-jueteng czar, Puerto Princesa City Mayor Edward Hagedorn, to take the place of the illegal game.

"They're fooling us," Mayor said. "The plan is to implement STL as a cover to bring back jueteng."

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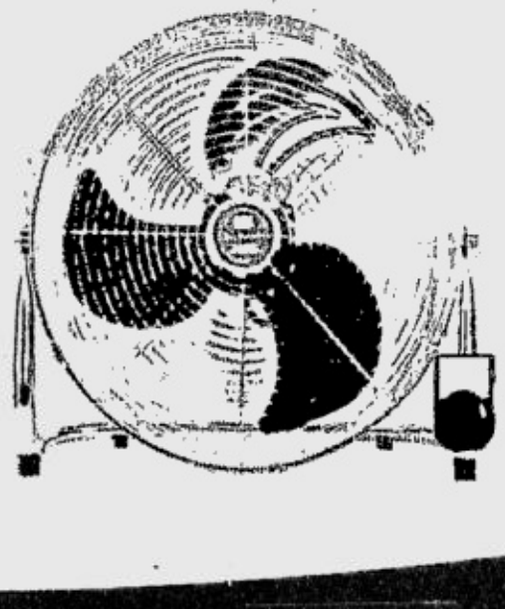

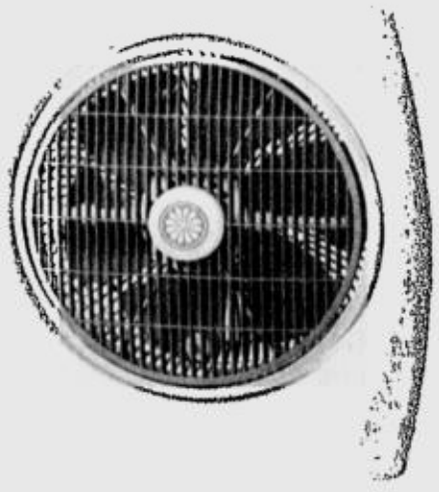

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

IMF writes off debts of 18 poor nations

WASHINGTON—EIGHTEEN OF THE POOREST nations will have their debts to the International Monetary Fund wiped out after rich countries bridged differences on Saturday that threatened a pact first signed this summer.

Leaders of the Group of Eight nations pledged at a July meeting in Gleneagles, Scotland, to cancel all debt owed to the international institutions by the world's poorest states, an agreement roughed out by their finance ministers the month before.

But some smaller European countries like the Netherlands were worried the G8 would not stump up the extra cash needed and that the commitment would undermine the existing resources of the World Bank and IMF.

Faced with the possible collapse of the deal at this weekend's annual meetings of the two institutions in Washington, the G8 on Friday promised additional money would be available, overcoming the smaller countries' objections.

"The world has come together," said British finance minister Gordon Brown who has personally championed the debt write-off and chairs the IMF's steering group, the International Monetary and Financial Committee.

"Agreement has now been reached on all the elements of the debt deal," he said, adding that the plan would be in operation by the end of the year.

World bank shareholders are expected to follow the IMF's lead on Sunday and also cancel the 18 countries'—most of them African—debts to it.

Under the plan, $40 billion of debt to the international institutions will now be written. A further nine countries could become eligible in the future and total relief could rise to $55 billion.

Aid campaigners were relieved that the plans that have been floated for years finally appeared to be turning into reality but urged speedy action.

"We heard the overture in June, the fanfare in July—and now we really do hope we have heard part of the final chord," said Stephen Rand of the Jubilee Debt Campaign.

"After all the brinkmanship this is good news. It's good news because it will make a real difference to some of the world's poorest people."

African nations welcomed the deal but wanted to ensure that there would be no extra strings attached to receiving the money, and called for more nations to become eligible.

"The devil is clearly in the implementation details," said Cosme Sehlin, Benin's finance minister.

The World Bank said the debt deal could boost recipients' annual economic growth by half a percentage point.

"The deal that has been sealed by the Fund this weekend will provide urgently needed money for education and health care," said Max Lawson, policy adviser at Oxfam.

"We've seen a real breakthrough on debt cancellation by the IMF. The stage is now set for World Bank shareholders to fulfill their part of the bargain tomorrow." *Reuters*

A CALL FOR THE RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW BY CONCERNED MEMBERS OF THE ATENEO COMMUNITY

WE would like to call on our fellow Filipinos to move on with our lives and start working for national unity, peace and development. We urge everyone to put the past behind us.

We firmly believe that the rule of law must prevail. We are now a polarized nation, and only the rule of law will help us heal our nation of the wounds of our division.

We urge our people to reject any unlawful means to supp lant a duly constituted authority. Let us reject all forms of violent acts that will undermine our constitutional process. More importantly, we cannot appropriate for ourselves the right to determine who has the moral authority to govern.

In a Representative Democracy, Members of Congress are the direct representative of the people, it is thru the Congressmen that the people speak. Congress has spoken and has spoken firmly. The issue has been decided.

We call on our fellow Filipinos to discern the issues well and with sobriety. Let us have faith in our democratic process and let us uphold the rule of law.

We call for everyone to heed the Catholic Bishop's Conference of the Philippines Permanent Council's call to avoid excessive politicking, to move forward and to address the problem of poverty.

Finally, let us all ask Divine guidance to give our leaders strength and wisdom, and mercy for our country to finally hurdle this adversity.

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Still no new government in Germany week after poll

BERLIN—A WEEK AFTER ELECtions, Germany on Sunday still had no new government to lead the country out of its economic rut, just the prospect of a troubled cohabitation between the left and right.

It was far from clear who would eventually lead such a coalition as the inconclusive vote and the first inter-party talks have failed to resolve the power struggle between Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and conservative leader Angela Merkel.

In a near comical standoff both are claiming the right to be chancellor, and observers are musing that Schroeder may bow out but force Merkel to do the same in his final show of muscle.

The woman who looked all but invincible most of the summer has been forced to put a brave face on her party's dismal showing, less than a percentage point ahead of Schroeder's Social Democrats.

The Christian Democrats finished with just 35.2 percent of the vote compared to the Social Democrats' 34.3 percent, a score close enough to see Schroeder claim a mandate for a third term as chancellor.

Though Merkel officially won the vote, her poor performance means that she may have to seek a deal with the Social Democrats and reckon with her wily rival.

The two parties held their first exploratory talks on Thursday, and while Merkel spoke of "clear differences" separating their positions, they have scheduled a second round for Wednesday.

By contrast talks with the Greens, who have been Schroeder's coalition partners for seven years but seem resigned to going back to the opposition benches, brought no hope of a deal.

"There was of course great difficulty in finding areas of agreement: We do not foresee another round of talks for the moment," Merkel said after party leaders met in Berlin on Friday.

The Greens expressed "profound scepticism" about any pact with the woman whom many have been quick to compare to Britain's Margaret Thatcher because of her quest to shake up Germany's moribund economy. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Taiwan to boost submarine force

TAIPEI—Taiwan plans to equip its two Dutch-built submarines with Harpoon antiship missiles that could be used to attack key Chinese naval bases, Jane's Defence Weekly said. If all goes smoothly, the two Sea Dragon diesel electric submarines would be armed with UGM-84 Harpoon antiship missiles, the Defence Weekly said in an article to be published Wednesday. Submarine-launched Harpoons are preloaded into a capsule and launched from a torpedo tube. The capsule rises to the surface and launches the missile. *AFP*

Half of S. Korea's 'kimchi' imported

SEOUL—Half of the kimchi consumed in South Korea is imported from China, the Korean Restaurant Association said Sunday, as more South Korean kimchi makers relocate to the mainland to cut costs. Imports of the spicy fermented cabbage and radish—considered South Korea's national dish—have tripled annually since 2001 when 393 tons of Chinese Kimchi hit the markets. Last year 72,600 tons of Kimchi arrived in South Korea, while imports in the first half of this year have increased 114 percent to 49,850 tons over the same period on 2004, according to data from the Agriculture and Fisheries Ministry. More than half of 79,000 Korean eateries surveyed in Seoul and its surrounding Gyeonggi province are using Chinese kimchi, which is much cheaper, a restaurant association survey found. *AFP*

Indian schoolgirl kills self over lunch

KOLKATA, India—A 12-year-old Indian schoolgirl committed suicide because her impoverished mother could not afford to give her one rupee (about two US cents) to buy a school lunch, police said. Sonia Khatun killed herself Friday near the town of Murshidabad 300 km north of Kolkata in West Bengal, said Raj Kanojia, inspector general of police. "Her mother is so poor that she could not give her a rupee to buy a tiffin (lunch pail)," he said. The girl hanged herself from a makeshift bamboo structure, he said. "Khatun's father died a few months ago and their mud hut on the banks of the River Padma gave way due to erosion," he said. *AFP*

THOUSANDS of demonstrators march through San Francisco to protest the war in Iraq Sept. 24. AP

100,000 protesters circle White House

WASHINGTON—MORE THAN 100,000 protesters flooded Washington on Saturday to stage dual demonstrations against the US-led war in Iraq and economic globalization, before coming together to demand President George W. Bush bring troops home.

"We need a people's movement to end this war," said Cindy Sheehan, an anti-war protester whose son was killed in fighting in Iraq. Camping out in Crawford, Texas, during much of August while Bush was vacationing there, Sheehan's rallies drew crowds there that sometimes numbered in the hundreds as she demanded a meeting with Bush.

Bush, who met with Sheehan in 2004 after her son was killed, refused to meet with her again.

"We'll be the checks and balances on this out-of-control criminal government," Sheehan, who has become the anti-war movement's best-known face, told the group gathered at the Ellipse, a park behind the White House.

In Los Angeles, about 15,000 people protested peacefully, while thousands more marched in San Francisco and in London urging an end to military action in Iraq nearly 30 months after an invasion ousted Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The crowds in Washington swelled through the day, and by late afternoon organizers of the anti-war demonstration said 300,000 people had assembled—exceeding an anticipated 100,000. Washington police declined to comment on the size of the rally.

Meanwhile, 1,000 to 3,000 people, as estimated by demonstration organizers, gathered a few blocks away to protest the autumn meetings of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank, saying policies that promote globalization and reduce trade barriers hurt the world's poor.

Many of them joined the anti-war march that circled a wide swath of downtown Washington, including the White House. They walked slowly, and often silently, and carried a blocks-long string of pictures of the 1,900 US soldiers who have died in Iraq. *Reuters*

UN nuclear watchdog condemns Iran amid atomic bomb fears

VIENNA—THE UN NUCLEAR watchdog passed a resolution on Saturday requiring that Iran be reported to the Security Council for failing to convince the international community that its nuclear program was entirely peaceful.

The International Atomic Energy Agency's (IAEA) governing board approved the resolution despite threats by Iran to begin enriching uranium and curtail IAEA inspections.

The resolution was drafted by Britain, France and Germany and backed by the United States, but it was watered down by the EU trio who had wanted Iran to be referred to the Council now instead of at an unspecified date.

US and European officials hailed the vote as a setback for Iran and said it gave the Islamic Republic "diplomatic space," while Tehran branded it a failure for the West.

With 22 votes for, one against and 12 abstentions, the outcome also highlighted the split between Western nations and others such as Russia, China and South Africa, which disagree with the EU three and Washington on how to deal with Iran.

The UN Security Council can impose sanctions on Iran, but Russia and China as permanent members hold veto powers.

Iran denies it is seeking atomic bombs and says its nuclear program is only for generating electricity. But it concealed its atomic fuel program from the IAEA for 18 years.

IAEA chief Mohamed ElBaradei said the vote was a valid decision supported by a majority but added that the international divide was worrying.

"I was deeply disturbed by the lack of any mention of arms control and disarmament at the (UN) summit in New York last week. And today I see also a divided board. That is not the way I should hope we would continue to proceed," he said.

Iran's top delegate to the meeting said the West had failed.

"The United Sates and United Kingdom wanted ... to send the case to the UN Security Council now. And at this session, they failed," Javad Vaeedi told reporters. *Reuters*

Afghanistan has brief chance to divert its opium production from heroin to medicine

By Bronwen Roberts

KABUL—AFGHANISTAN ONLY HAS small window of opportunity to divert its billion-dollar production of opium away from heroin and toward the manufacture of legal painkillers, the head of a drugs think-tank says.

But the fragile country needs to act fast, with drugs cartels poised to take root, Emmanuel Reinert, executive director of the Paris-based The Senlis Council, said.

"I think there is one window of opportunity and this window will be closed in a year or so," he said.

The group will on Monday present the findings of a study into legalizing Afghanistan's opium production and using it to make medicine at a conference in Kabul expected to draw government and farmers' representatives among other groups.

Afghanistan is the world's leading producer of opium, producing 87 percent of the world's supply used to make most of the heroin on Europe's streets.

The product, harvested from poppies, is also the war-shattered nation's main source of income, accounting for between 40 and 60 percent of its gross domestic product.

Both the United States and the UN have warned the country is in danger of becoming a narco-state unless it stems its opium production.

But eradication programs funded by international donors have only made a slight dent in output which has dropped by an estimated two percent over the past year.

With Afghanistan vulnerable as it tries to rebuild after decades of war, the country is ripe for the emergence of drug cartels that would entrench the dependence on opium, Reinert said.

AN AFGHAN woman waits to cast her ballot in the parliamentary election in Herat Sept. 18. REUTERS

"It's why we are doing this with a sense of urgency. If this market is getting organized, if you have some kind of merger and acquisition going on in the provinces with some major players, it will be very, very difficult to overcome that later on."

There was still time to change this course by legalizing opium production and channeling it toward the world's unmet and growing need for painkillers, he said.

Reinert admitted however that the Afghanistan government was cautious. This was because it did not want to alienate the international donors on which the country relies, with Britain yet to endorse the idea, he said.

In March interior minister Ali Ahmad Jalali ruled out the possibility of legalizing Afghan opium production saying it would be to difficult because the sector was a key component of a murky underworld.

"The money which is being made from drugs finances crime, terrorism, and also using this money some groups form private militia," he said.

Reinert said there had however been an "evolution in attitude."

"There is an incredible shortage of morphine and coedine in a number of countries, including neigboring countries, and so you have a huge possibility and I think a number of countries are starting to see that," he said.

According to the International Narcotics Control Board, six of the world's richest countries consume 80 percent of the world's morphine and coedine, which are also made from opium, while 80 percent of the world has access to only six percent.

"There is obviously an incredibly large amount of unmet need for painkillers, for treatment of cancer, HIV/AIDS treatment," Reinert said.

"Millions of people in Latin America, in Africa, in Russia, in China are dying in pain because they don't have access to these medicines and because the system is overregulated right now."

He warned that the policy of eradicating poppy fields, on which farmers survive, would be at the expense of Afghanistan's search for democracy and peace after 25 years of conflict and under the harsh rule of the fundamentalist Taliban regime ousted in late 2001.

"It would eat right at the nexus of the building of this nation and farmers, if they see planes spraying their fields, they will go back to the Taliban, to the local commanders.

"The effect will be exactly the contrary to what everybody wants to see here," he said. *AFP*

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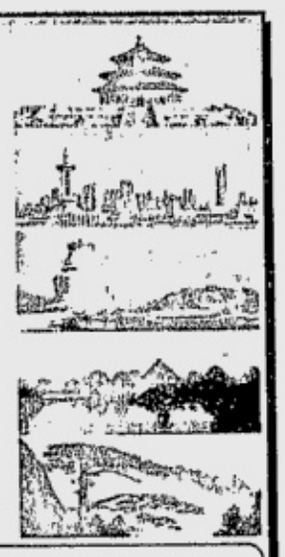

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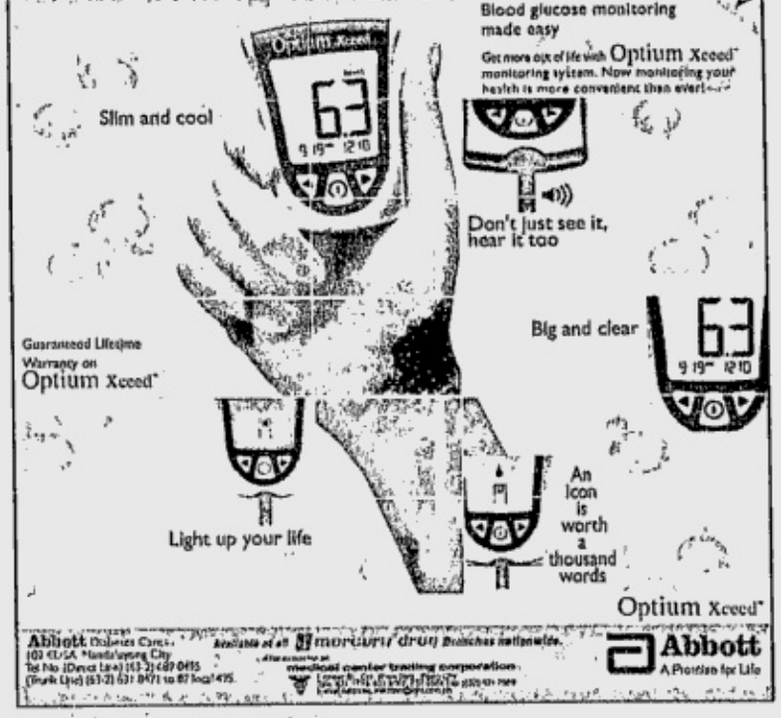

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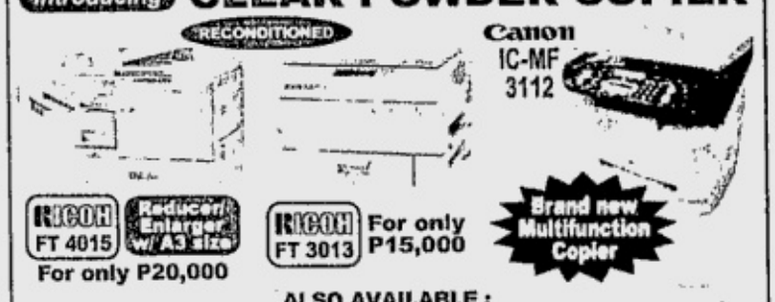

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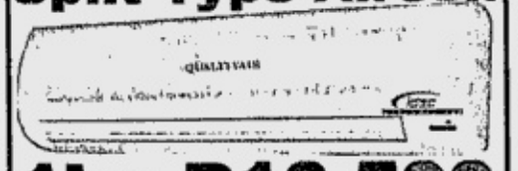
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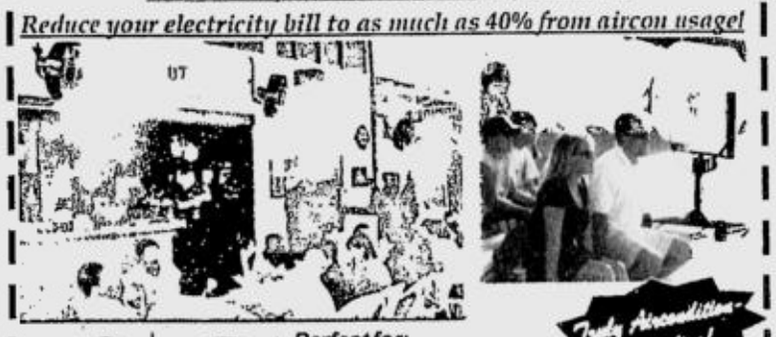
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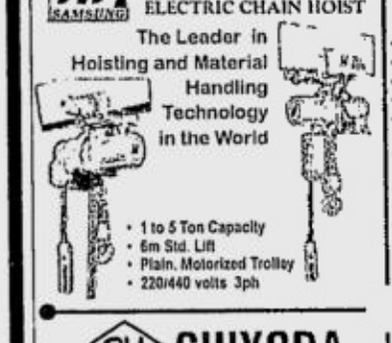
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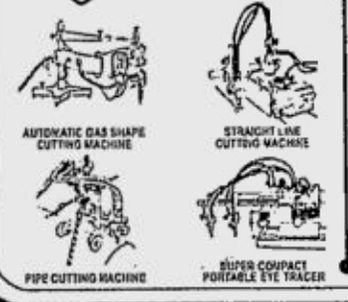

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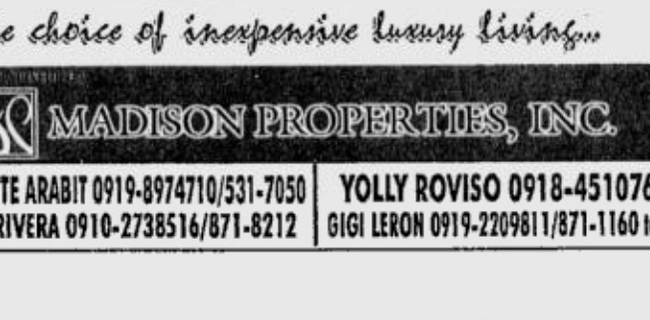
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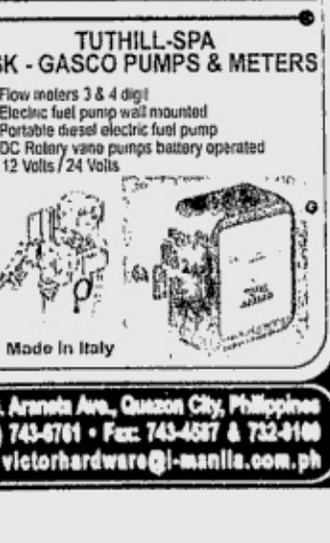

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Israel opens 'prolonged' offensive against Hamas

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP—ISRAELI aircraft blasted suspected Palestinian weapons facilities and other targets throughout the Gaza Strip on Sunday, at the launch of what the military said would be a "prolonged" offensive against Hamas militants who bombarded Israeli towns with rockets.

The offensive dashed hopes that Israel's recently completed Gaza withdrawal would help restart peace talks and left a seven-month-old cease-fire on the brink of collapse. The fighting also raised already intense pressure on Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas to confront militants, and weakened Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon as he parries a challenge to his leadership.

In a further sign the truce was unraveling, the military arrested 207 Palestinian wanted men in the West Bank overnight, most of them members of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements. The military has conducted sweeping arrests of Islamic Jihad militants since the February ceasefire, but this is the first time it has detained large numbers of Hamas members.

Among those arrested were Hassan Yousef and Mohammed Ghazal, two of the most prominent Hamas leaders in the West Bank, Hamas officials said.

A group of senior Israeli Cabinet officials, led by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, approved the military operation in Gaza at an emergency meeting late Saturday after Hamas militants fired nearly 40 rockets from Gaza at southern Israeli towns. The rocket barrage, which slightly wounded six Israelis, was the Islamic group's first major attack since Israel concluded its Gaza pullout two weeks ago.

"It was decided to launch a prolonged and constant attack on Hamas," said Maj. Gen. Yisrael Ziv, the army's head of operations, hinting that Israel was preparing to resume its assassination of top Hamas leaders, a practice suspended after the February ceasefire. Asked whether the leaders were in danger, he said: "Let them decide for themselves."

Israel killed dozens of Hamas leaders, including the group's founder, Sheik Ahmed Yassin, during more than four years of violence.

Ziv later told Army Radio that a ground operation wasn't being planned yet, but if one is deemed necessary, "then we won't refrain."

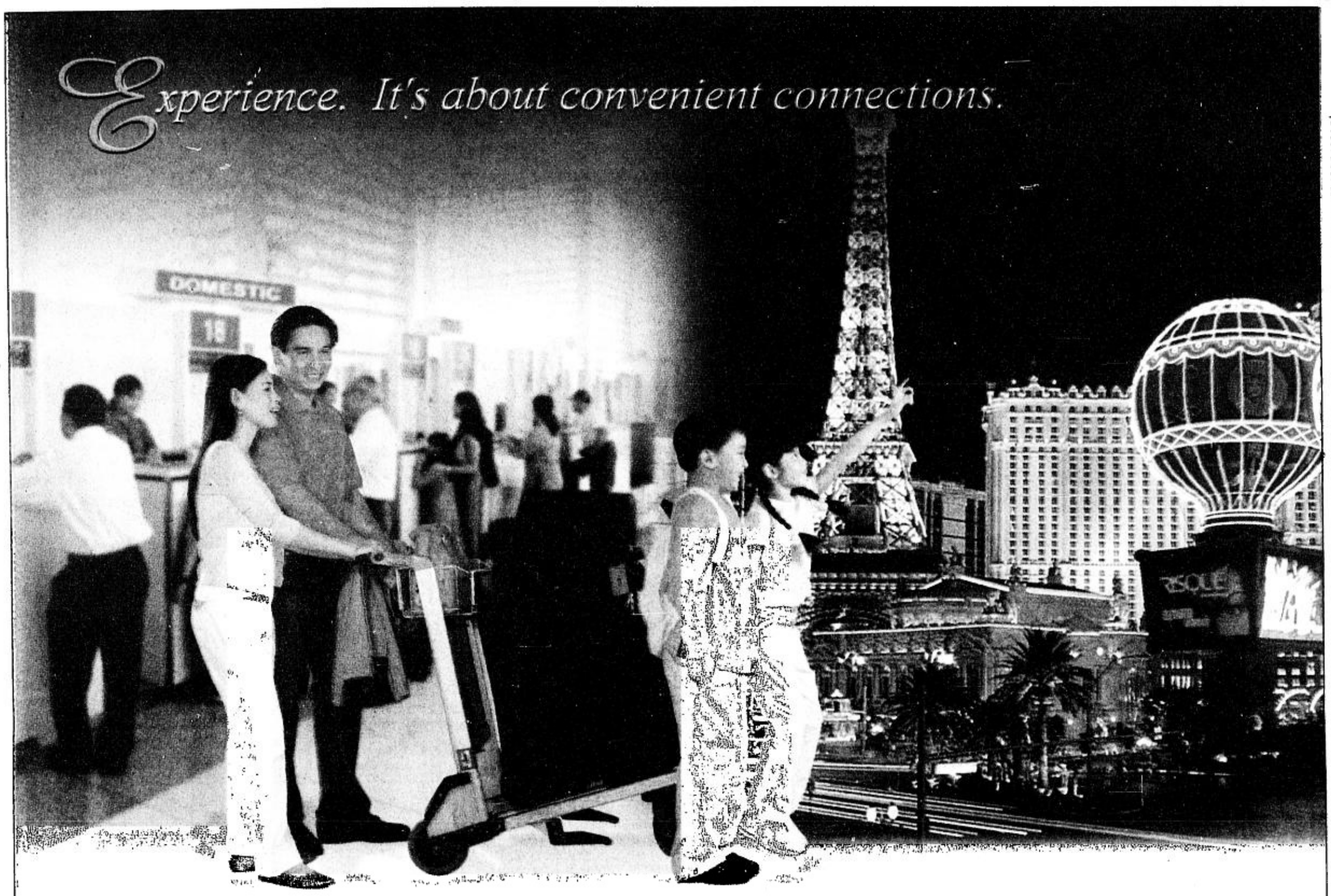
Israeli military officials said the attacks were aimed at any group possessing weapons, and other small groups were targeted. But the offensive was focused on Hamas, the largest Palestinian militant organization.

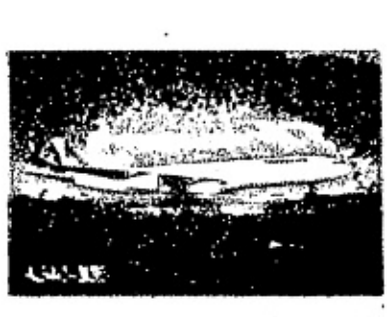
Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said "the Israeli bombing in Gaza and the arrests in the West Bank lead to one direction, and that's the collapse of the ceasefire, which serves no side's interest." He called on US President George W. Bush to work to calm the conflict "so we can sustain the cessation of violence."

The Palestinian WAFA news agency reported that US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called Abbas on Saturday evening, and urged him to preserve the truce and stop the situation from deteriorating further.

Israeli police, meanwhile, were on their second highest level of alert against terror attacks, and have sent reinforcements to major cities and public places.

The crisis erupted ahead of a major challenge to Sharon's leadership of the hardline Likud Party and could strengthen the hand of Sharon's main rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, who predicted the Gaza pullout would encourage militant attacks. A Likud vote Monday could determine whether Sharon quits the party—a move likely to bring early elections and lead Sharon to form a new centrist party to capture mainstream voters. *AP*





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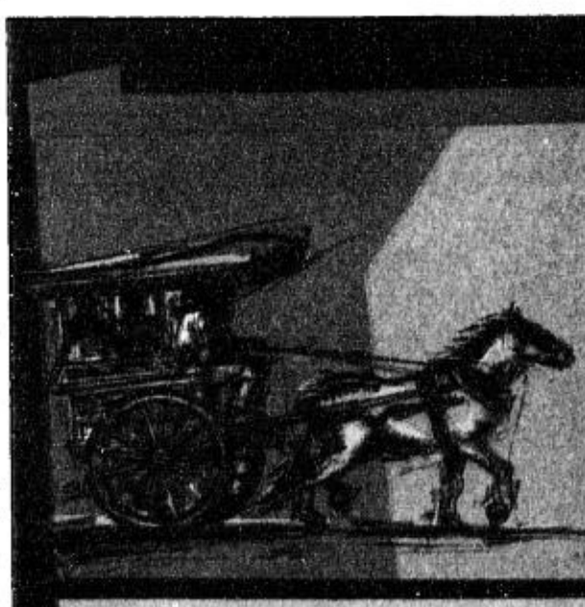

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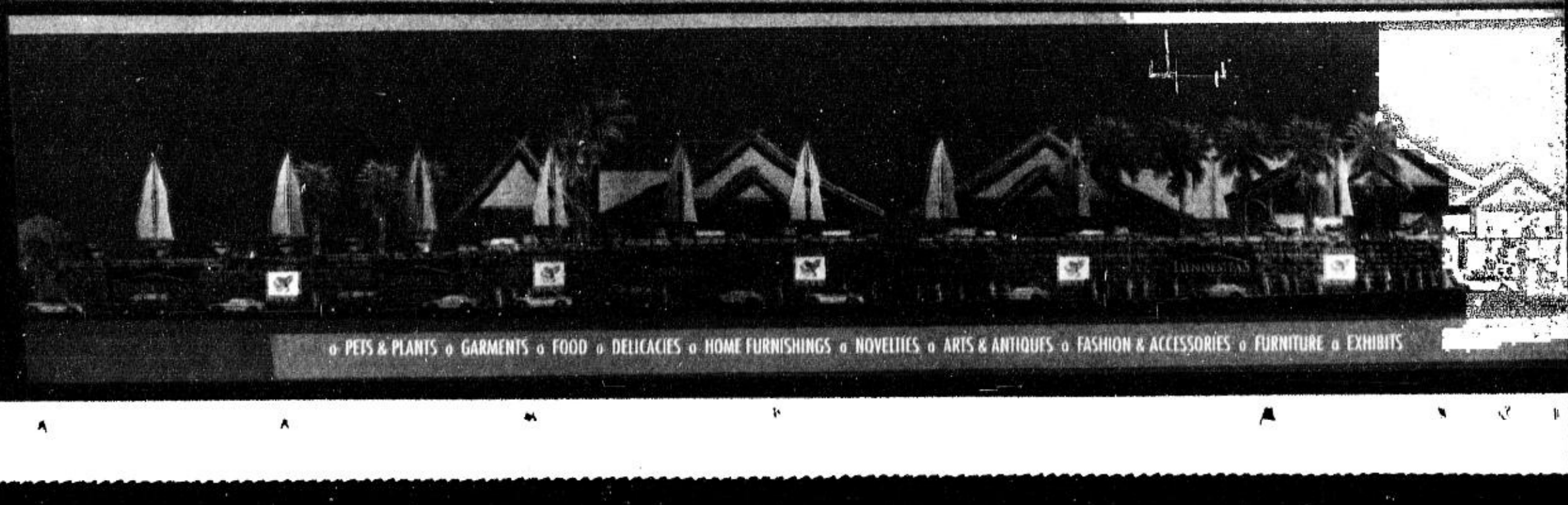

Millions of animals face death sentence in Australia

SYDNEY—MILLIONS OF EXOTIC ANIMals—from camels to cane toads, horses and foxes—face extermination in Australia under recommendations by a parliamentary committee.

A population explosion of species introduced to this isolated continent since European settlement began more than 200 years ago is a growing threat to agriculture and native wildlife, the committee of inquiry has found.

"The exotic species need to be eradicated," committee chair Alby Schultz said. "That's the first point I make."

Shooting and poisoning would be among methods recommended by the committee, which has been investigating the problem for more than a year and will present its report to parliament by early November, he said.

The Department of the Environment lists animals of "significant concern" as including feral camels (500,000), horses (300,000), donkeys (five million), pigs (up to 23 million), cane toads, European wild rabbits, European red foxes, cats and goats.

Some of the animals such as camels, horses and donkeys were introduced as beasts of burden. Pigs and goats were brought in as food sources by early settlers and foxes for recreational hunting. Others, such as cane toads, were, ironically, imported to eradicate agricultural pests.

With few natural predators and vast sparsely-populated areas in which to roam, the populations have soared, putting pressure on native species by preying on them, competing for food and shelter, destroying habitat and spreading diseases.

Shultz said the committee would recommend the establishment of a national body to oversee a countrywide strategy to eliminate the exotic imports and replace previously uncoordinated attempts at regional control.

Describing the need for action as "very urgent", Shultz dismissed a suggestion that it would be impossible to shoot Australia's half-million feral camels, for example, let alone the millions of other animals.

"You can, because the donkey is a classic example of that. In Western Australia they had a wild donkey population of somewhere between 400,000 and 500,000 and they've basically eradicated them," he said.

This had been done through shooting from helicopters after using female "Judas donkeys" wearing radio collars to lead marksmen to the feral herds, and the same could be done with camels and goats, he said.

The conservation group WWF Australia agrees there is a need to cull feral animals, program leader for species Nicola Markus said, while stressing that it should be done as humanely as possible. *AFP*

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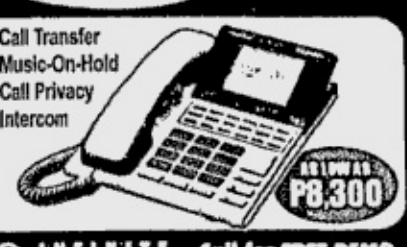
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Dangerous ground

THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW GET-TOUGH APproach to street demonstrations is bad policy and worse politics. Instead of solving the problem Malacañang has identified, a "calibrated preemptive response" is only likely to add increasingly expensive fuel to the fire. And instead of diverting attention from the political crisis that gave rise to the problem in the first place, the new policy will do the exact opposite: It will worsen the President's crisis of legitimacy.

EDITORIAL

The problem, as President Macapagal-Arroyo herself defines it, is the disruptive impact of the street protests, such as the last one that halted activity in the middle of the country's financial district.

"We cannot let this continue," Ms Arroyo told an assembly of Pampanga barangay officials. "Our policy of maximum tolerance has been abused, these rights have become licentious, to the detriment of the peace and order and the welfare of the greater majority."

The President's new approach assumes, correctly, that it is sometimes the painful task of government to strike a tenuous, even tentative, balance between competing rights. But it is based on a mistaken appreciation of the facts.

The official policy of maximum tolerance has **in fact** not been abused. Since the President's crisis of legitimacy erupted with the first airing of the Garcillano tapes, street protests may have been loud, but they have by and large not turned violent; they have also followed curfews agreed upon. Since the crisis started, the rights to free speech and free assembly have also and **in fact** not been "licentious," whatever the President may have meant by that. Some of the bigger ones have tied up traffic and inconvenienced many—but that is, **in fact**, the price we have always paid for the exercise of these basic freedoms. To suggest that it is a new cost exacted by a suddenly licentious exercise of our rights is to take outrageous liberties with both the facts of the case and history itself.

History itself reminds us that the President was the beneficiary of disruptive mass actions—more disruptive, in fact, than the ones in Makati City. If it was good enough for her then, it should be good enough for her political enemies now.

The other day, her spokesperson explained why a declaration of martial law was not even an option. "We have lived through the worst of the political turmoil without resort to such measures," said Secretary Ignacio Bunye, "because we had faith in the majority of the people who have embraced the rule of law rather than the rule of the mob."

Bunye was not being completely intellectually honest; a "mob" is simply inchoate or failed people power. But if his main assertion is in fact true, that the worst of the political turmoil is over, then the new get-tough policy makes even less sense.

Why? Because the new policy will not solve the problem; that is, it will not stop street protests. On the contrary, it will spur more of them, and probably even swell the ranks of the so-called parliament of the streets. In other words, it will invite more turmoil, not less.

Politics, especially in a time of crisis, is still addition. To those who believe the President stole the election, the new policy will add the numbers of those who believe that the President is now stealing their right to speak freely and to assemble peaceably.

In other words, in terms of solving the problem before it, the new policy is ineffective. In terms of political strategy, it is even worse.

Even a dictator like Ferdinand Marcos understood in the last years of his misrule that the official "maximum tolerance" policy worked not only to protect the crowd in the streets but also the authorities controlling the crowd. In a word, it gave the police and the politicians room to maneuver. (To be sure, many street protests then turned violent, when the police and the military descended on the protesters to disperse them.)

The new policy, however, destroys that wiggle room. It commits the authorities to an inflexible schedule of predetermined responses. Instead of allowing them to adjust to each protest on a case-to-case basis, the new policy commits them to an adversarial position, right from the start.

That, in sum, is what is wrong with the new policy. It is neither calibrated nor preemptive, but only calculated intolerance.

People no longer afraid of martial law

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

IT WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF STUPIDITY for the administration to impose martial law or emergency rule now. Such a move would achieve nothing. It would only reveal that the administration is desperate and in panic—and it would hasten the downfall of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Declaring martial law or emergency rule could be compared to throwing the turtle into the river—the militants would like nothing better.

I don't think martial law would be as effective as it was during the Marcos regime. Today, the people are no longer afraid of it. They know they can fight back and eventually chase the President out of Malacañang as they did with Marcos.

Neither are the people afraid to be arrested and imprisoned. They have learned that arrest and detention is a shortcut to fame and to a fruitful career in politics and government. Many of the oppositionists who were imprisoned by Marcos graduated to become senators, congressmen, Cabinet members, etc. They could not have created even a ripple in the political pond had Marcos not made heroes of them by having them arrested.

If not for Marcos, they would still be nobodies instead of the prominent personalities they are now. Many of them were elected or appointed to public office with no other qualification than that they were imprisoned by Marcos. To be imprisoned then was a badge of honor.

So if GMA were to impose martial law or emergency rule, the opposition would just love it.

People who have so far been reluctant to join the street protests would suddenly be angry and realize that they have to do something to prevent another dictatorship. Street rallies would get bigger; it would be the heroic thing to do. What the opposition have been unable to do, GMA would do for them.

So I don't think GMA, or Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, are serious in imposing emergency rule. It is possible that they themselves purposely leaked the martial law threat as a trial balloon—to scare people from joining street marches and from criticizing the administration so much. Now they know people are not so easy to scare anymore.

Besides, the Senate is not going to give its nod—which is required by the present Constitution—to the imposition of martial law. And GMA does not have full control of the military as Marcos had then. Many officers would surely balk at another martial rule and that may hasten a coup against GMA.

GMA is caught between an immovable object and an irresistible force; if she doesn't handle the present situation well, it would be goodbye.

* * *

It is not even necessary for the government to take over the oil and power firms, as well as the shipping and airline companies because of the oil crisis. There are many ways to save on fuel other than taking over utility companies. In the first place, there is no assurance that the government can run these corporations more efficiently. Government officials are notoriously inefficient and will most likely just milk and loot these companies, and run them to the ground, as many nominees of the Presidential Commission on Good Government have done to so many sequestered companies.

What should be done is to fire the officials of the Energy Regulatory Commission and the Department of Energy. They are not even making any effort to regulate the oil and power industries.

Scrap the Oil Deregulation Law. That was the first big mistake. For some strange reasons, Congress and President Fidel V. Ramos deregulated the downstream oil industry all at once, ignoring the experiences of other countries who had earlier deregulated their oil industries. Those countries deregulated slowly and gradually; in the initial stage, with price controls. The transition period was very long; to keep prices down, there was no full deregulation until a genuine and meaningful competition among many players had been established. Many of these countries are still in the transition period until now. Result: in those countries, the oil companies were not able to abuse their cartelized operations and there were no runaway oil price increases.

But we did it our way. Our transition period lasted less than six months, and it was like blowing up the dam instead of letting the water out gradually. Result: A big flood of rising prices swamped the people like Hurricanes Katrina and Rita did to some states in the American South.

How does the government save on fuel? By press releases. They give passing or failing marks to government offices depending on how they reduce their electric consumption. That's all.

But they don't see the wastage of fuel that ordinary people see every day. You don't have to stray away from Edsa to see it. You see thousands of giant billboards lighted up all night, consuming millions of kilowatt-hours of electricity and burning millions of barrels of oil. The power consumed by these billboards would be enough to light up a city.

Why not turn them all off at 8 or 9 p.m.? There is no need to keep them lighted all night. Lighted billboards are a waste of expensive electricity. Fewer people see them during the late hours anyway. And people see them the whole day already. The billboards would have done their job by the time the sun sets.

Now that the storm season is here and the billboards are in danger of toppling down on people below—as did one that paralyzed Metrorail operations for half a day last week—it is time to rationalize the installation and lighting up of billboards to save on electricity.

Another waster of fuel is the excessive number of buses that clog Edsa at all times, never mind if each of them carries very few passengers. And not only do they waste fuel and clog the highways; they also pollute the air. Are the Department of Transportation and Communications and the Metro Manila Development Authority helpless against them?

I refuse, Part 2

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

DEAR MADAM,

You will notice that I do not say, "Madam President." That is because I do not consider you my president. As—to go by the surveys and the number of decent Filipinos who are dying or getting sick from seeing you on TV—do most citizens of this country.

I refuse to obey your order for me to desist from gathering with other citizens in Makati and elsewhere. If Jojo Binay were to defy your order and call for a rally in his favorite city to call for your ouster, I will be there. Notwithstanding that I am hard pressed these days to meet deadlines, given the never-ending meetings that the never-ending divisiveness you have wrought upon this country compels me to attend.

Had your predecessor, Joseph Estrada, ordered this in his time, I would have refused to obey his order too. To his credit, he never did so, notwithstanding that he made noises to that effect. He drew the line at certain things, one of them being the rights of the citizens. To his credit also, he was an elected president—he left Jose de Venecia, who like you knows only how to manipulate things, biting his dust. If he had ordered a crackdown on those who were trying to oust him, he could at least have claimed to do, so in the name of the people.

To your discredit, you have more than made noises to that effect, you have done it. To your bigger discredit, you are not even the president.

You say "The commuters, the pedestrians, the students and the business sectors have complained about the inconvenience and the disruption of the businesses resulting in economic losses." How can the commuters, pedestrians, students, and businessmen complain about these rallies when they are the ones who are swelling their ranks? You tend to confuse yourself, your hangers-on in Malacañang, your Pagcor-enriched friends in the Church, and your toadies in Congress, with them. But then you've always been confused about a great many things, including who is the president of this country.

But that is nothing. What is astounding is that you should forget how you got to be in Malacañang to begin with, which allowed you to stay on after last year by helloing Garci. You did so because we defied Erap and did what we had to do. I'd like to emphasize the "we" because I never saw you there. It is a testament to how saintly Pope John Paul II is that he has not importuned his Creator to send a lightning bolt your way for using his name to justify your paralysis. You got to Malacañang on our blood, sweat, and tears, not on yours. The most you can do is appreciate protest, the least you can do is not stifle it.

If we did not inconvenience the commuters, the pedestrians, the students and the businessmen then—though I never heard any complaints from them, they were busy swelling the ranks of the rallies too—you would never have slipped into the Palace by the River and been free to torment us. If you listen close enough to the complaints emanating from the commuters, pedestrians, students and businessmen, you will hear that they have nothing to do with traffic, they have everything to do with the humongous inconvenience of having you still around to disrupt not just the economy, not just the normal processes of democracy, but the natural flow of life itself.

I am glad that you decided to ban rallies against you in Jojo Binay's city—though I have yet to hear you ban as well rallies for you in Lito Atienza's and Sonny Belmonte's cities—shortly after the anniversary of martial law. It is a very good reminder of it. Though as I said last week, Marcos was still the president when he declared it, having a year more to go. You are imposing a de facto martial law without ever having been voted to power.

You say you're "tired of chasing the bully around the schoolyard." I say you are just as confused about your metaphors as you are about your mandate. The normal course is for the bully to chase the smaller kids around the yard, not for the smaller kids to chase the bully around the yard. The normal course, too, is for the other kids to want to stop being bullied and fight back. Guess who's who in this equation.

You say we are abusing your policy of maximum tolerance. I say you are fraying our nerves and taxing our patience more than anything in the expanded VAT. You are not tolerating us, we are tolerating you. A democracy, in case you have forgotten, is one where power resides in the will of the people, not in the will of the president, and certainly not in the whim of a putative one. A tyranny is one where the ruler rules without the consent of the governed. That consent is gotten through the vote, not through Garci.

You say the people fighting you are not good for the country. That is your opinion. But this is not a matter of who is good or bad for the country, this is a matter of who the people want to rule them. If this were just a question of who is good for the country, I'd pick Nicky Perlas or Ting Roxas over you anytime. Unlike you, they have a sound vision of the future and the integrity to realize it. But like you, they have not been voted into power, and so can't be president.

I demand to know what moral authority you have to conscript my loyalty as a citizen. As I said a couple of months ago, I refuse to give it. I refuse to be a good citizen to a bad president. "Bad" in the sense of lame or fake—my apologies to the lame and fake. I refuse to serve, I refuse to defend, I refuse to pay my taxes. Feel free to consider me a destabilizer. I was, I am, I will always be. If I weren't so, you would never have tasted the power you now use so wantonly.

Feel free to arrest me as well. I can always admit that anxious as I was to protect my country, I called up people who sounded like Jojo Binay. For this:

I... am... **not**... sorry.

Executive privilege for Gonzales?

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

IN DEFENSE OF NORBERTO GONZALES, MALACAÑANG has asserted executive privilege, inter-departmental courtesy, and suggestions of national security. This ploy is nothing new.

Take the appeal to executive privilege. In 1807, when Aaron Burr was on trial for treason, he asked the court to order President Jefferson to release a letter which purportedly showed that Jefferson had exonerated Burr. In response, the government argued that the release of the letter would endanger public safety. After the arguments had been presented, Chief Justice Marshall ordered Jefferson to release the letter. Marshall said that it was for the Court to decide whether the letter indeed would endanger public safety. Jefferson released the letter.

Closer to our time were the events of Watergate. Executive privilege was also asserted when Special Prosecutor Leon Jaworski issued a subpoena requiring US President Richard Nixon to produce Oval Office tapes and various written records touching on the case against members of the Nixon administration. One argument against Jaworski's order was that confidentiality was necessary for the Executive Branch to function effectively; it was pointed out that key advisers of the President would hesitate to speak frankly if they have to fear that whatever they say could go public.

The Supreme Court recognized "the valid need for protection of communications between high Government officials and those who advise and assist them in the performance of their manifold duties" noting that "[h]uman experience teaches that those who expect public dissemination of their remarks may well temper candor with a concern for appearances and for their own interests to the detriment of the decision-making process."

Having said that, however, the Court nonetheless concluded that the executive privilege is not absolute. Mere assertion of a generalized need for confidentiality must yield to public interest. The Executive Branch must convince the court that indeed there is genuine need for confidentiality. Accordingly, the Court ordered President Nixon to release the tapes and records.

Nixon complied. Four days later he resigned. I am not suggesting anything.

So far, the claim of confidentiality in the Gonzales case has been generalized. The sound bites from Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Secretary Ignacio Bunye are just that, sound bites.

There has also been an appeal to interdepartmental courtesy. The appeal, however, must recognize that the demand for courtesy is mutual. The Senate's claim is that the witness in this case has insulted the intelligence not only of the senators but also of the viewing public. Besides, there is such a thing as the right of the people to be informed about matters of public concern. The identity of the donors who paid for the lobbying contract is a matter of serious public concern.

More technically, however, what is the rule governing the treatment of members of the official presidential family? Before the 1935 Constitution, as well as under the 1935 Constitution, "department heads" could not be compelled to appear in hearings but could only be invited with the consent of the Executive. The practice was for various legislative bodies to **request** secretaries either to appear before legislative committees or to furnish written information.

The rules radically changed with the adoption of the 1973 Constitution. The 1973 Constitution adopted the parliamentary devise of the "question hour," which was intended to serve not so much as an aid to legislation but as an instrument for keeping the administration in line. Cabinet members could be "required to appear and answer questions and interpellations" to give an account of their stewardship.

During the deliberations of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, Commissioner Hilario Davide proposed the retention of the "question hour." This was vigorously resisted. Instead, what was approved followed the lines of the 1935 Constitution. It now reads: "The heads of departments may upon their own initiative, with the consent of the President, or upon the request of either House, as the rules of each House shall provide, appear before and be heard by such House on any matter pertaining to their departments . . . When the security of the State or the public interest so requires and the President so states in writing, the appearance shall be conducted in executive session." Should the department head appear, however, whether on his own initiative or upon the request of the House, the appearance will be done "as the rules of each House will prescribe."

The tenor now is again permissive. The President may or may not consent to the appearance of department heads; and even if he does, he may require that the appearance be in executive session. Reciprocally, Congress may refuse the initiative taken by the department secretary.

It should be noted, however, that the persons protected by the provision are "department heads," that is, department secretaries whose appointments need confirmation by the Commission on Appointment. Is Gonzales such person? Or does he not rather come under the rule for witnesses appearing in legislative investigations, a rule which—since Arnault v. Nazareno—allows Congress to detain a recalcitrant witness? It is this rule that the Senate has relied on.

Blast from the past

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

"I DON'T KNOW WHY THEY KILL. THEY JUST kill. They kill innocent people, they kill women, they kill children..."

This was President George W. Bush speaking at a Pentagon briefing last Thursday, sounding as clueless as most of us on the motivations of "terrorists."

The briefing immediately followed the "Global Summit" on "CNN Connect," which was hosted by Christian Amanpour, who discussed equally compelling global concerns, among them Islamic extremism, the term which perhaps has been agreed upon as the more politically correct.

Among the panelists and resource persons in the summit were such disparate personalities as former President Bill Clinton, U2's Bono, the astronaut former Sen. John Glenn, World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz, Jordan's Queen Rania and Ted Turner, all of whom are apparently committed to the cause of helping the marginalized among the human race get a better chance at survival on this planet.

What were the causes of Islamic extremism? How could Islam, by its very name the religion of peace, be the ideological foundation of a culture of hate—specifically, against other faiths; and generally, against the principles of Western democracy?

Very difficult questions to answer, but there were clues. There is, for one, the absence of a formal and definite religious hierarchy among the Muslim *ummah* (congregation), which would approximate that of the Roman Catholic Church. This is one factor that somehow allows some Muslim individuals or groups to interpret the Holy Koran and the sayings of the Prophet according to their own understanding, their own worldview and even their own aims.

Queen Rania, as knowledgeable and as articulate as the King, was more specific: ignorance, isolation, poverty, the lack of chances to improve their lives, making them vulnerable to any persuasive and ostensibly authoritative movement or collective action that, at the least, holds some hope for a better life; and, at the most, the tantalizing prospect of overcoming and even dominating perceived oppressors.

And the Queen could not be more emphatic in advocating education as one effective countermeasure against extremism. But it should be the kind of education, she stressed, that would minimize anger and hatred, both of which are seen as the very roots of what is now considered by the civilized world as the most devastating menace inflicted on humanity in our time. More importantly, education should be made accessible especially to women because they carry the larger part of the responsibility of inculcating in their children the right values.

In opposition to an ideology of killing, these eminent personalities transcribed a strategy for the preservation of life, from eradicating corruption, to devising programs for renewable energy, to microfinancing, and to ecology and environment conservation.

And so it was with equal mixtures of shock and awe that we watched and listened as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, proclaimed by the ominously numbered 13th Congress of the Republic of the Philippines as ruler of this country where people, after five years of her administration, escape starvation's slow painful death by jumping from giant billboards; and where mothers who are denied free contraceptives save their children from the same fate by leaving them as fetuses in church doors or garbage heaps—made her appearance as presiding officer of the United Nations Security Council to deliver an impassioned reaffirmation of her total commitment and unconditional support to President George W. Bush's war on terror, justifying this as "practical," the word to mean—as she broadly hinted—asking for assistance in the acquisition of instruments of mass murder to combat terrorists.

For this, she will place in hock the Constitution and our sovereignty; and sell, piece by piece, the national patrimony, to include the jewels of Imelda Marcos. Thus, we will have nothing left to sell but our blood, sweat and tears; we will have no other choice but to labor, away from family and home, as the world's servants, entertainers, whores and bed-pan cleaners (but hailed as "modern heroes" for providing her government the dollars with which to pay for her gargantuan loans) only to come home either with electronic gadgets or lying rigid in a box.

For this, Bush bussed her on the cheek. But even as she was still basking in her 15 minutes of fame, a report showing that her country tops the list of Southeast Asian countries hosting the most number of terrorist groups was released.

I still have to comprehend how the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front got on that list, at least in the context of the 1992 peace agreement and the fact that, as of now, the government is still discussing the issue of ancestral domain in the ongoing peace talks with the MILF; but I wrote this piece with the gentle drone of a spy plane keeping me company through the night and leaving just before the crack of dawn.

But the renewed "all-out war on Mindanao," the central message of her plea enjoining the world's support for the Bush-led war on the world, will have to wait until he sends those weapons of mass destruction.

In the meantime, an anti-terror law, certified as urgent by the national security adviser, will have to be passed by the noble 158 in Congress, and the National Democratic Front has announced that it will launch offensives against the military in Mindanao.

This is not just how it all began 33 years ago. This is worse. Because all that we were asking for was for her to tell us where she was hiding Garcillano.

* * *

Comments to rubaiyat19@yahoo.com

Moving on

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

I WAS IN EXALTED COMPANY—WITH DR. VICtoria Aveña of the Counsel For the Defense of Liberties (Codal); Loretta Ann Rosales, Akbayan party-list representative; and Dr. Fernando T. Aldaba, chair, Department of Economics, Ateneo de Manila—at the UP Cebu Conference Hall, last Sept. 23. There we shared our analyses of the present situation. (The forum was organized by the Action for Economic Reforms and the Social Sciences Division of UP Cebu.) It was an engaging, instructive, invigorating dialogue. The organizers and participants were warm.

I can summarize what I said to them in a few sentences: the President is not alone in being disliked and distrusted by many; that new ways to express dissent and dissatisfaction must be found; that the low regard for our officials, together with the manner in which they have set about to claim for themselves the concepts of legitimacy and the rule of law, ignores that there are reasonable questions that require answers; that finally, they (participants) must examine themselves and ask others to do the same, to see if they are unwilling to go beyond grumbling because of an inherent bias: the President represents their values, and what they aspire to become, and thus, to oppose her is to oppose consciously what they dangerously believe on a subconscious level—that is, to oppose her is to oppose themselves in the end.

What I learned from them (the students and teachers both) will take many more sentences. The most fundamental lesson was: They are extremely frustrated. They do not believe in rallies; but they do not believe in the President either. (Out of about 150 participants, only three said they were for the President, regardless of whether she did wrong or not; and indeed, they frankly said that if it took cheating to defeat her leading opponent, it was worth it.) The rest—disgusted with the President, and equally disgusted with the mainstream opposition and the Left—no longer knew what they could do.

I had to respond with some suggestions and observations. First of all, it does not take a rally to write a letter to a newspaper, to make a call to a radio program, and to text or phone in to a television show. They can express themselves on the Internet, if possible. Most of all, they can break out of their feelings of isolation and share their thoughts with each other and their parents. Only by making their feelings felt will they be able to demolish the myth that Cebu is solidly Arroyo country; secondly, only by being vocal about their disgust with the opposition leaders will they be able to begin the transformation of our national leadership. By these steps will they gain the courage to seize the leadership of this country from those they believe have failed them.

A professor noted that he had attended many forums similar to the one we were in, and that they all provided motherhood statements aplenty, but little by way of concrete proposals for achieving change. A representative of a group of jeepney drivers reacted by expressing his concern that attempting some sort of protest action might result in franchises being revoked. And so I came up with a series of proposals.

The first, I said, was to consider the saying that all politics is local. What—I asked the students—did they feel about the proposal to divide their provinces into three? They all shook their heads to express opposition. Therefore, I suggested, if that's the case, as young voters you have to make your feelings known and—more than that—to keep a tight watch on their officials: if the students saw the proposal to subdivide Cebu as self-serving, then they must also keep an eye on the other actions of their leaders—including national leaders whom their local leaders decide to support.

The next battle they can fight, without resorting to rallies, is the proposal for Charter change. Are the changes to the Constitution the ones they want, as Cebuanos, or the ones that the politicians in Manila want for reasons entirely at variance with theirs? What if, for example, the President and Congress are more interested in parliamentary and unicameral government, and less so in federalism? Shouldn't this matter? The students indicated that they were more interested in federalism than parliamentarism: then if this is the case, by their actions you shall judge them—Congress and the President, at least.

Finally, as for concrete solutions to the frustrating problem of not wanting to rally with people they neither respect nor trust, why not take the concept of people power to another level? If the jeepney operators fear either offending the public or being punished by officials, and if the students do not want to march, who says a different kind of unity can't be achieved? You must express your dissatisfaction by withdrawing support: convince your unconvinced classmates; convince your skeptical parents; consult your teacher; dialogue with equally upset members of the civil service; and keep up the pressure so that when, finally, you have overcome your fears, you can then work on your elected officials to reflect your views as their rightful constituents: get them to withdraw their support from the President. And when the time comes to act, I suggested, the way to do so is to stay home. The city can grind to a halt, and what can the President do? Order the soldiers into the empty streets? Shoot at nothing? Defend nothing? They might as well go back to the barracks and join the sit-in.

A journalist friend in Cebu afterwards told me: You are wrong to think in Manila that the President is loved here. She won by default; and the local officials are beginning to realize they were had.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Economy unscathed

COMMENTARY

Rigoberto D. Tiglao

THE SEPT. 22 SOCIAL WEATHER STATIONS' PRESS RElease blared: "Hunger rises to 15.5%." Media, of course, echoed the line. Practically buried in the press release was the more fundamental trend emerging from its opinion survey.

For August (or more accurately from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5, the survey period), 49 **percent** of those polled perceived themselves to be poor. This was a sharp decline from 57 **percent** reflected in the SWS survey in May.

Significantly, the 49-percent, self-rated poverty incidence is the third lowest since 1983, or in the 22 years the SWS has been polling on this indicator.

The lowest self-rated poverty incidence in the SWS series was recorded at 43 percent in March 1987, during President Cory Aquino's term. But that was quite obviously a fluke or a polling error. Except for March 1987 and the succeeding poll in October that year, the self-rated poverty incidence in the other 11 polls conducted during Aquino's term always went over 60 percent.

The second lowest self-rated poverty incidence was recorded by SWS in March 2004 under President Macapagal-Arroyo, at 46 percent.

The drop in self-rated poverty incidence isn't really surprising, as President Arroyo has been continuously pushing her bureaucracy to accelerate anti-poverty programs. For instance, from July 2001 to May 2005, government provided some P20.8 billion in micro credit to 2.2 million borrowers nationwide. That would certainly have had an impact on poverty incidence.

And even at the height of the political storm, new anti-poverty programs were being pushed. For instance, the President prodded government financial institutions to allocate P900 million for microfinance starting early June. By July, these GFIs had got their boards to approve P600 million.

Despite all the whining and noise of the political mob, there have been improvements in our nation's fight against poverty. The following figures are data from the SWS (www.sws.org.ph):

President	SWS Poverty Incidence %	Official Poverty Incidence %
Marcos	65	44
Aquino	67	40
Ramos	60	33
Estrada	56	28
Arroyo	51	25

Note: Second column figures are the average of the findings in the last three SWS polls vis-à-vis each president; except for Marcos, with respect to whom only two polls were made.

The SWS' latest data are also quite significant in the fact that the lower self-rated poverty incidence was registered during a period of political turmoil—that is, during the big push to overthrow the President. Although self-rated poverty incidence is by definition the personal perception of respondents, it often reflects the level of national pessimism, which understandably was expected to be high at a time of political turmoil.

The fact that there was instead optimism during that period—lower self-rated poverty incidence—could mean two things. On the subjective level, Filipinos simply disregarded all the political noise which the elite in Manila were all so absorbed with.

On the objective level, our economy was unscathed by the political storm. This was remarkable considering that crude oil prices doubled this year from its 2000 levels. The decrease in the number of people saying they were poor simply reflected the impact of an improving economy.

Another way of looking at it is that there was such a growth momentum before the political storm hit that the economy just shrugged off all the doomsday scenarios.

This is borne by economic figures in the past several months. In particular, two major macro-economic trends show the improved conditions in which the SWS respondents found themselves in.

- **Gross Domestic Product**, or economists' term for the total value produced by an economy, grew by 4.8 percent in the second quarter of 2005, stronger than the first quarter growth of 4.6 percent. Our country fared better than that of Malaysia (4.1 percent), South Korea (3.3 percent), and Taiwan (3 percent).
- The **unemployment rate** decreased in July 2005 to 7.7 percent from 8.3 percent in April 2005. This meant a million more Filipinos getting jobs since last year.

When the impeachment proceedings against Erap started in the third quarter of 2000, the peso's exchange rate fell from P43 to the dollar to P51 just before he quit the Palace, a huge P8-loss in the peso's value that certainly forebode a chaotic period. In contrast, the peso exchange depreciated only by 3 percent since June this year, The consensus among analysts is that this was due not to capital flight—as in the case of Erap's impeachment—but to the surge in oil prices which required more dollars for crude imports.

It is what is called the international balance of payments (BOP)—the net of our transactions with the world—which is the biggest factor in pressures leading to the depreciation of the peso. A build-up of deficits—which means we are spending more dollars than we are receiving—leads to the fall in the peso's value.

This didn't happen in the past three months. In fact, the BOP posted a huge $2-billion surplus in the first seven months of the year, a complete reversal of the $93-million deficit in the same period last year. This was due mainly to the following developments:

- **Exports** for the period January-July 2005 increased to $23 billion, up by 4.6 percent from $22 billion last year
- **Foreign investments** in the stock market and other short-term instruments registered as of Sept. 9, 2005 a net inflow of $2 billion, 13 times more than the $153 million registered in the same period last year and 4.1 times more than the $486.8 million total for the whole of 2004.
- **Remittances from Filipino workers** overseas grew to $5.8 billion in the January-July 2005 period, up 22 percent from the $4.7 billion for the same months last year.
- **The number of tourists** grew to 1.5 million for the first seven months of the year, up by 13.5 percent from the 1.3 million recorded in the same period last year.

The Philippine stock market also showed resilience in the face of the political storm. The Phisix, the stock market indicator, even strengthened and peaked at 2,038.10 points on Aug. 12, 2005. It declined though in mid-August because of the surge in oil prices which threatened the global economy. It has started to recover though, moving again to the 2,000-point mark in the past two weeks.

Finally, despite all the political noise, government has kept firm control of its purse. The budget posted a surplus of P1.8 billion in the month of August, its third surplus in a month this year. Revenues from January to August amounted to P530.2 billion, 1.6 percent above target, while expenditures amounted to P610.9 billion, 5 percent below the program.

Secretary Rigoberto D. Tiglao is the head of the Presidential Management Staff.

Paying creditors with the future of Filipinos

THE DEBT-FOR-EQUITY SCHEME, PROposed by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United Nations Global Summit, is supposedly meant to be a way of "easing" our foreign debt burden and thus save funds for our "development" programs and projects.

Going by the design of Speaker Jose de Venecia, the proposal is neither a debt cancellation nor a debt reduction. Rather, it is conversion that, upon the sufferance of foreign creditors, would allow the government to convert 50 percent of existing foreign debt servicing into foreign investments. According to the government's computation, this translates to P120 billion every year.

In return, the Speaker further explained, the debt-for-equity scheme would allow foreign bankers and creditors and their favored corporations to own projects of their choice—such as mining, reforestation, water, education and other public services projects—in the Philippines.

The scheme ignores the continuing calls to repudiate or at least renegotiate fraudulent and odious debts, which constitute the bulk of our loan obligations—a track that has been taken by countries like Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Nigeria, Cuba and Tanzania.

One such debt is the $2.3-billion loan for the mothballed Bataan Nuclear Power Plant, for which until now Filipinos are paying $155,000 a day on the interest alone.

The Arroyo debt-for-equity scheme is simply disadvantageous to the people and only caters to the profit-interest of foreign monopoly corporations. The conversion of foreign debt into foreign capital investments is like paying foreign creditors with the future of our nation.

Now, we can begin to imagine how foreign transnational companies will own and control our forest, mineral and agricultural lands, energy infrastructures, water reservoirs, government hospitals, and state universities. Our farmers, fisherfolk and indigenous peoples will be displaced from their sources of livelihood. The foreign debt will balloon as the country ceases to control and manage its resources. In the name of profit, our natural resources will deplete faster, aggravating environmental degradation and pollution. With foreign monopoly in control, the people will be subjected to higher costs of basic services.

President Arroyo continues to give more reasons for the people to oust her.

—CLEMENTE BAUTISTA,
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Getting hotter every summer

HAVE YOU BEEN FEELING HOT AND perspiring lately? Have you noticed our country getting hotter and hotter with every summer that passes? Well, it's not just you, and it's not just us. The excessively warm climate we are experiencing right now is the effect of global warming.

Global warming, or the greenhouse effect, is the warming of our atmosphere due to the heat that is trapped on the earth's atmosphere; this is mainly caused by gases such as carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbon (CFC). CFCs are usually given off by air conditioners and refrigerators. On the other hand, carbon dioxide is emitted by our cars and is also produced when we generate electricity. The continuous emission of these harmful gases traps the heat on the earth's atmosphere causing the temperature to rise. The problem does not end here: studies show that the effects of global warming are felt after 20 or 30 years. This means that what we are experiencing right now may be the aftereffects of carbon dioxide and CFCs emitted back in the 1970s.

But if you think that the increase in temperature is the only effect of global warming, you are wrong. Another possible effect is famine in hot places like Africa and the Philippines. A warmer climate will also mean higher sea levels, which could lead to the loss of some islands.

What can we do? As citizens of this country and as inhabitants of the earth, we can simply respond to our government's call to conserve electricity and to minimize the use of automobiles. For all we know, this little sacrifice could make a big impact two or three decades from now. It would not only be the future generation that could benefit; conserving energy would also mean that we would spend less and enjoy more—more clean air to breathe and a healthier body. This is a call for all because this affects not just each and every one of us but also the next generation.

—LOREN PEREZ C. LEE,
326 Km. 20, JP Rizal St.,
Nangka, Marikina City

nwa

NORTHWEST AIRLINES®

Dear Northwest Airlines® Customers,

As you may have heard, Northwest Airlines has voluntarily filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. This will be an important step in our transformation to a competitive, new-era air carrier. This protection enables Northwest to reorganize and rebuild our business while continuing to operate flight services without interruption. Many other companies, including many airlines, have successfully used this process.

During the period of reorganization, we make the following promises:

- We will conduct normal operations throughout this process.
- We are committed to serving our customers, honoring tickets, flying a competitive schedule, continuing our WorldPerks® program and honoring the miles earned by our members.

All bookings already made and tickets already issued will be honored, and our ticketing policies remain unchanged. Our existing marketing partnerships and alliances with other airlines remain in place, and you should continue to book flights, travel and accrue and redeem miles with WorldPerks as usual.

While we had hoped to avoid Chapter 11 reorganization, it does provide a platform for completing the transformation of Northwest. The simple fact is that we could no longer continue to incur sizable losses as we attempted to complete our voluntary restructuring plan. We believe this Chapter 11 filing is the most prudent way to ensure that Northwest will be able to provide you with better services and to compete effectively, now and in the future.

Northwest has great strengths that will allow it to compete effectively, once our costs are restructured. These strengths include our highly skilled, dedicated employees, strong hubs, expansive route network, domestic and international alliances, cargo business, and a great loyalty program — WorldPerks.

Northwest Airlines looks forward to continue earning your business by providing the outstanding service you deserve. We sincerely hope for your continued support and loyal patronage.

Doug Steenland
President and Chief Executive Officer
Northwest Airlines, Inc.

Senator consistent in her positions

THIS REFERS TO CONRADO DE QUIROS' Sept. 12 column titled "Meddling."

De Quiros has always been critical of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago. However, disagreeing with the views of a public official and writing about it in his column is one thing, vilifying that public official for the sake of venting his spleen is another. Far from engaging his readers into an intelligent exposition of ideas, De Quiros resorted to calling the senator names and making maligning statements against her, which had nothing whatsoever to do with the issues at hand.

De Quiros wrote that Santiago was among those who "were once with Erap but are now with GMA." The senator has always been consistent with her stand that she is not supporting personalities, but the rule of law. Under the Constitution, it is Congress that has the exclusive jurisdiction over cases of impeachment. The House of Representatives has already ruled on the impeachment complaint against the President. It is the hallmark of a democratic society that this decision be respected, however flawed it might be to the belief of some.

Second, Santiago does not seek to curtail the right of Church officials to exercise their constitutional rights to free speech and peaceful assembly. The senator merely cautioned the Church not to use its institutional power to instigate the people to disrespect the decision of the House, otherwise it would be guilty of violating the principle of Separation of Church and State, and its officials of offenses punishable under the Revised Penal Code.

Lastly, it is our hope that De Quiros will stick to the issues and refrain from using the INQUIRER to make personal attacks against Santiago.

—DENNIS ESCALONA LEGASPI,
media relations officer,
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GMA's and De Quiros' differing 'rule of law'

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN OF CONRADO de Quiros in the Aug. 31 issue of the INQUIRER, which was titled "Rule of law."

I am writing to commend De Quiros' frank assessment of the manner in which the phrase "rule of law' has been misused and abused in the past few weeks by lawmakers supportive of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I specifically refer to a passage in the second paragraph of the column: "At the very least, what makes this breathtaking is that it's being used by the very people who moved to oust Erap when he hadn't been proved guilty beyond a shadow of a doubt ... It's rule of law to oust a duly elected president—no, make that a hugely elected one—for robbing the public of their trust but not so a spurious president—no, make that a usurper—for robbing the voters of their votes? In the first, we had only the word of a self-confessed thief in the person of Chavit Singson; in the second we have no less than the word of GMA herself."

There have been many instances in the past when I wrote the INQUIRER to correct the distorted views of a number of its columnists in so far as the Edsa II tragedy and my vilified administration were concerned. But De Quiros' column is proof that there still is light at the end of the tunnel, and that the truth—in its own good time—will set us all free. It is time to end the hypocrisy propagated by those who use the phrase "rule of law" to justify Ms Arroyo's continued stay as president—a position which was never hers to begin with, obtained through an electoral "victory" that destroyed the very essence of the rule of law.

—JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA,
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Benguet town immersed in boundary disputes

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, BENGUET—OF THIS province's 13 towns, this town has the most boundary problems as it is currently embroiled in land conflicts against Sison in Pangasinan, Pugo in La Union, Baguio City and nearby Itogon.

But the most bothersome is its dispute with Baguio City for territorial maps have shown that more than half of its municipal hall lies on a portion that belongs to the city.

This included the police station and the post office, and further west of the municipal building, the Tuba National High School annex, Tuba Elementary School and St. Paul Catholic Church.

Finding that these buildings were within the territory of Baguio City, officials here became wary of legal issues that might be raised over certain government functions.

Cited in particular would be the validity of marriages performed by the mayor and the municipal judge.

Mayor Jose Baluda and Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan said the boundary problem had been known many years ago but no final settlement was arrived at between town and city officials.

Domogan, however, said the bill he filed in Congress to amend the city's Charter will once and for all delineate the extent of the city's territory which, in effect, he noted, will solve the conflict with this town.

Maps have shown that this town and Baguio are fighting over 37 hectares of land along their boundaries, Domogan said.

The town has a total land area of 43,427 has. Barangay Poblacion, where the municipal hall stands, has 4,030 has.

Kidnapped manager freed after payment of ₱300,000

ILIGAN CITY—A MAN ALLEGEDLY MISTAKEN TO be a scion of a businessman was released by his abductors on Saturday, after 84 days of captivity.

The victim, Vicente Oñate, was kidnapped by unidentified men here on July 2. He was released after his family paid the negotiated ransom demand of P300,000 from an initial demand of P5 million.

Oñate, who is in his early 50's, married and who is from Bacolod City, was invited by an Iligan-based non-government organization, Hope for Change (HFC), in July to lecture on business planning.

Nanette Antiquiera, HFC chief executive officer, said Oñate was manager of the defunct Purokan cassava flour mill in Balabagan, Lanao del Sur, a company previously owned by the Lobregats who had sold this to the Dimaporos and who, in turn, sold it to businessman Lu Do.

Antiquiera said the HFC learned about Oñate's kidnapping three days after she and other NGO workers had dinner with him. Oñate was billeted at the Rene's Diner here at the time he was kidnapped.

After ransom was paid to the kidnappers through HFC worker, Hamidda Apar, Oñate was released in an undisclosed location between Taraka and Molundo towns in Lanao del Sur, about 18 kilometers from Marawi City.

Antiquiera, Apar and civic leader Miguel Valdez, representing the Oñate family, negotiated for his release. Valdez is the son of Ilocano migrants who had settled in Dansalan town before the war was born and who was raised there.

As a child, Valdez learned to speak "betyaraan," the language used in negotiations by Maranaos and which majority of the present generation of Maranaos are no longer familiar with.

Valdez, through his mobile phone, asked the kidnappers to bring down the ransom demand to P100,000. The kidnappers, using the victim's mobile phone, brought the amount down to P1.5 million but later reconsidered when Valdez convinced them that the Oñate family could not raise the amount.

Finally, P300,000 was agreed upon as payment in exchange for the victim's release.

Upon his release, police authorities in Marawi City brought Oñate to Parang, Maguindanao.

His kidnappers are still at large and doubts were raised they would ever be arrested or put to jail. *Christine Godinez-Ortega*
PDI Mindanao Bureau

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Solon says he got call from GMA on impeachment

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—"HELLO DODO?"

Now it can be told. President Macapagal-Arroyo called Oriental Negros Rep. Emilio "Dodo" Macias II by cellphone, while Congress was voting on the impeachment last Sept. 6, to thank him for his decision not to add to the votes of the proimpeachment congressmen.

In a press conference at the Provincial Capitol last week, Macias, who had campaigned for actor Fernando Poe Jr. in last year's elections, admitted that he had made a decision to absent himself from the proceedings, a fact which his friend and protégé, Gov. George Arnaiz, could have told the President.

Unknown to many, Macias considers himself a member of the majority in Congress because he voted for Speaker Joe de Venecia.

Macias said he was hospitalized on Sept. 4 but he left the hospital to attend the majority caucus in the morning of Sept. 5 to inform them that he could not vote because he was sick. "But I assured them that if my vote was really needed, I would leave the hospital and come to the Batasan."

Macias said that while he was expected to vote along with the majority, he didn't like the report of the justice committee. "I could also have voted 'no' but now, we will never know what could have happened if I voted because I was absent," Macias said.

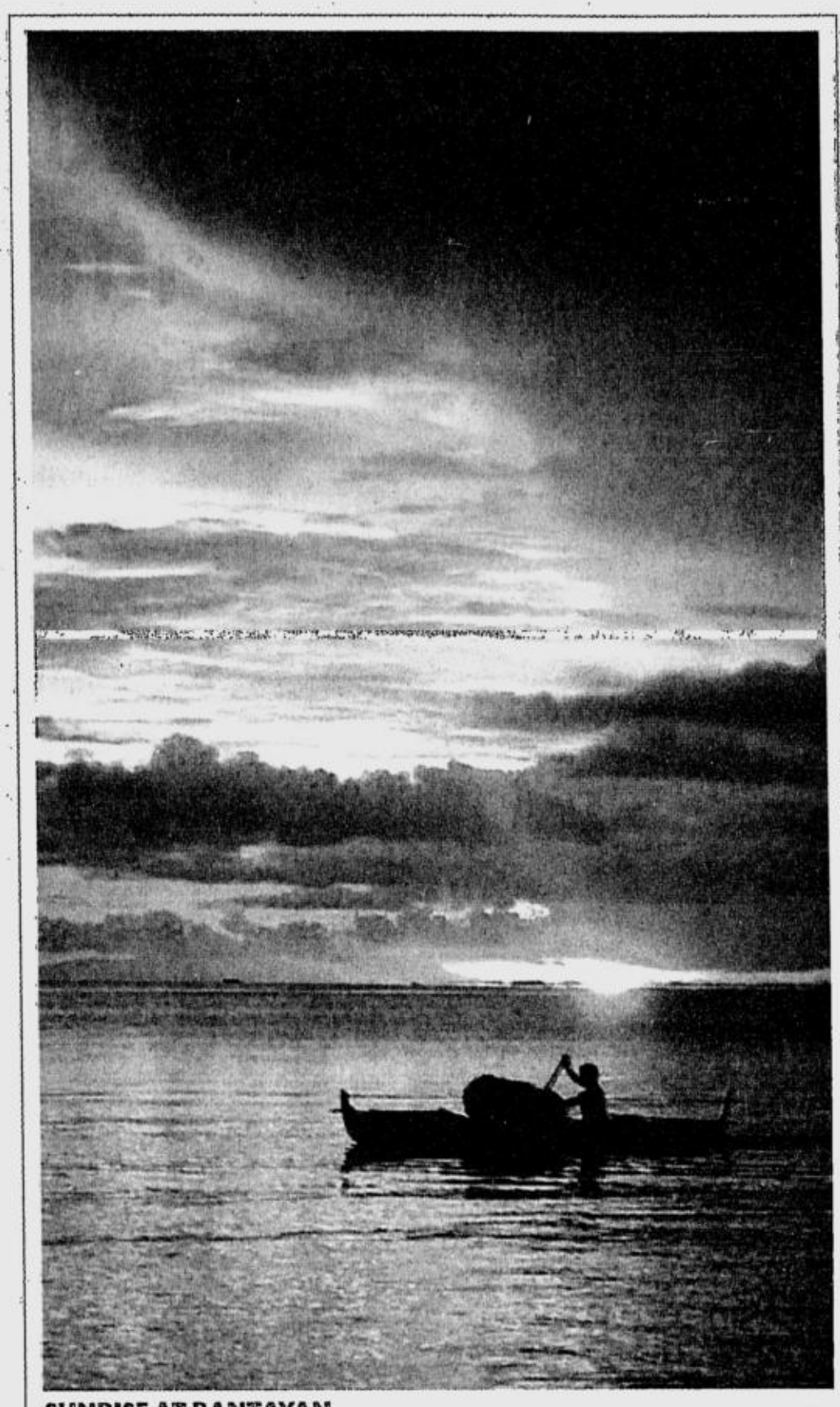
The President's call came while Macias was in his hospital room at the National Kidney Institute where he was admitted for cough and colds.

Macias said he chose to be confined at the NKI instead of other hospitals, because "it was close enough for him to make a quick trip to the Batasan should his presence be needed."

Despite denials made by Arnaiz, Macias said it was the governor's request for him to help the President that swayed his decision.

"For many years," Macias explained, "the governor of this province had always been at odds with the President. It is only now that our President is close to our governor. If I give George credit, maybe the President will add to what she had already given the province."

Macias assured that there were no trade-offs during that conversation with the President. "It lasted only for a few seconds. And I don't want anyone of you to think that I could be bought."



SUNRISE AT BANTAYAN YVETTE LEE/CONTRIBUTOR
The clouds notwithstanding, a fisherman starts his day at sunrise off Bantayan Island, Cebu.

BFAR study warns of depletion of fish in Davao Gulf in 2007

DAVAO CITY—THE DAVAO GULF COULD SUFfer a fish shortage by 2007 if unregulated fishing continued in the region's 520-kilometer fishing ground, an official of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources warned on Friday.

Jose Villanueva, project leader of the National Stock Assessment Project (NSAP) of BFAR 11, told the Davao Gulf Stakeholders Forum held at the Grand Menseng Hotel that the latest results of the NSAP study showed that the exploitation rate (ER) of growth over fishing (harvesting of fish before reaching the first maturity stage) within the Davao Gulf area is nearing critical level. The Davao Gulf area is comprised of Sta. Cruz and Malita towns in Davao del Sur; Bucana, Talomo, Lawin and Fish Port in Davao City; Sigaboy in Davao Oriental and Jamboree in Governor Generoso, also in Davao Oriental.

"The ratio is way above the standard level of 0.5," he said.

Once the ER reached the ratio of 0.9, Villanueva said it is already considered critical.

He said by this time, the Davao Gulf will virtually run out of fish products.

Fish species that will be most hurt by the projected depletion are moonfish or *bilong-bilong*, scads and round scads or *borot*.

"In two years, if we fail to stop the harvesting of small fishes, we would end up without fish," Villanueva later told reporters.

He said BFAR is not making up stories. Since 1998, NSAP has been conducting a P3-million study of the gulf's resources, he said.

Villanueva said results of the study also showed that the arbitrary harvest of premature fish is usually the work of unscrupulous small fishermen, who use the banned fine mesh nets.

Judy Quiros, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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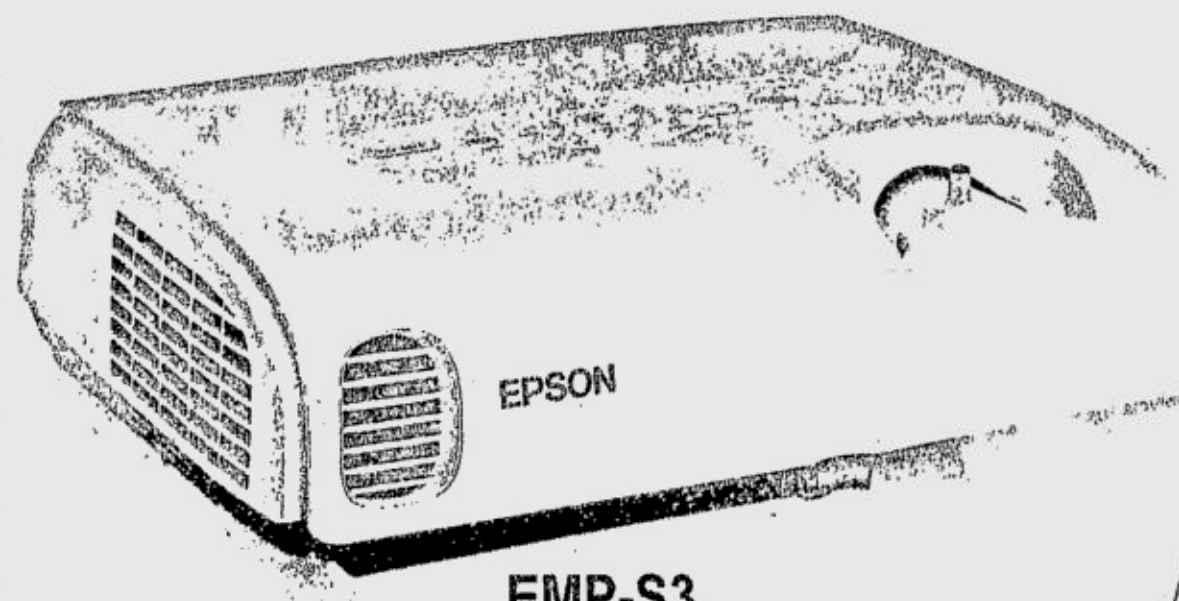
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Cebu won't adopt tough stand vs protests

OSMEÑA

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—CEBU CITY MAYOR Tomas Osmeña will not adopt the "no permit-no rally policy" despite an order from Malacañang for local government units to get tough on "unruly mass actions."

Mayor Osmeña said there was no need for him to get tough on protesters and impose a no permit no rally policy because the situation in Cebu is very different from that of Metro Manila.

"We have no problem here. We will allow them (protest rallies) because we don't feel there's a need to over-regulate ... Whatever they're doing, it's okay," said Osmeña, a strong ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The Philippine Information Agency in Central Visayas released on Friday a press statement quoting Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye as urging local government officials in urban areas to implement the law against the protesters.

"The tough order against unruly mass actions is not meant to quell civil liberties but to put things in proper perspective—that people have the right to protest for as long as it does not infringe on the rights of others to a peaceful and orderly community," Bunye was quoted in the press statement.

The statement said mass actions by anti-government protesters have now become too frequent disrupting daily work and activities, even as it claimed that protest actions in Cebu have failed to draw public interest and participation.

It also quoted Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal who urged the protesters to conduct their rally in an orderly and peaceful way.

Protest

Osmeña said any group could stage their protest even without getting a permit provided they will not disrupt the peace and order situation.

"If they insist on not getting a permit, we will still allow them to have a rally within the city, but it will get so disruptive, then we will have to use some police action. We are here to protect the public not to protect ourselves," Osmeña said.

Eduardo Gador, Central Visayas police chief, said the police in the region would also continue to adopt the maximum tolerance policy on protesters.

Gador said they have not received any order to disperse or arrest the protesters who did not have permits to rally.

Officials of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP)-Cebu City chapter criticized Ms Arroyo for ordering the strong enforcement of the "no permit no rally policy."

Lawyers Alex Tolentino and Democrito Barcenas, president and former president of IBP-Cebu City, said the government should not bar protest actions because it goes against the constitutional right of the people to hold peaceful rallies.

ROUNDUP

Quezon radioman gets threats

LUCENA CITY—A Quezon television and radio commentator has reported to the police that he was being hounded by "death threats" sent through his mobile phone. Broadcaster Arnel Avila, 42, host of daily television program "Pag-usapan Natin" aired over cable station STV6, said that the mobile phone number 09164486159 has been sending him messages threatening him with harm and death. Last year, Avila's house in the city outskirts was fired upon by unidentified gunmen. Last May, his car was also splashed with corrosive chemicals. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Sorsogon has most detainees

SORSOGON CITY—Sorsogon has the most political detainees in Southern Luzon and it also has the youngest among them, according to the Task Force Detainees. TFD Southern Luzon coordinator Jerbert Briola said Sorsogon has 14 political detainees; Quezon, 9; Mindoro, 5, and Batangas and Palawan, two each. Two political prisoners at the Sorsogon District Jail were only 15 years old when they were arrested in 2003, a list provided by Karapatan-Sorsogon showed. Karapatan-Sorsogon spokesperson Angel Ayala said Alvin Hubilla and Mark Anthony Hular are being tried for multiple murder as they are suspected of being part of a New People's Army team that raided a police outpost in Gubat town, killing three policemen in 2003. Briola said they were organizing a fasting among political detainees every 21st of the month, which aims to call on the government to release all political prisoners.
Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rebels burn garbage trucks

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Seven armed men who identified themselves as members of the communist-led New People's Army burned two garbage trucks in Rodriguez, Rizal on Wednesday. Calabarzon police director Chief Supt. Jesus Verzosa said the suspects flagged down the trucks in Sitio Calumpit, Barangay Macabud at about 2 p.m. and ordered their drivers to disembark from the vehicles. Verzosa said the armed suspects told the drivers that they were communist rebels. Three of the alleged NPA rebels emptied two containers of kerosene onto the trucks and burned them. The suspects quickly fled on foot toward the mountainous part of the village. A police official, who requested anonymity, said the attack might be aimed at pressuring officials of Ren Transport, a trucking firm that contracted garbage collection in several cities in Metro Manila, to give in to the demands of the firm's labor union. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Cell site attacked

CITY OF CALAPAN—At least 10 armed men believed to be members of the New People's Army damaged the generator set door, fuel gauge and cabin of the Globe Telecommunications tower in Puerto Galera at around 8 p.m. Friday, said Oriental Mindoro police chief Senior Supt. Marcos Flores. The Globe station is in Barangay San Isidro, about 30 minutes from the poblacion. The suspects destroyed the barbed wires to pass through the entrance doors and opened it using steel bars, Flores said. They poked their gun on the lone security guard. About 1,000 liters of diesel were lost in the station because of the damaged fuel gauge, police learned. The suspects left a small container of gas inside the radio room. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

War vs mango 'weevil'

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Agriculture officials vowed to stop mango pulp weevil, the menace that has killed the mango industry in Palawan. During a comprehensive eradication program forum recently, Dr. Hernani Golez, of the National Mango Research Center, presented a three-year eradication program to start in 2006 to eradicate the weevil. The pest started attacking mango trees in Palawan in 1987 and since then, the province's mango industry, which was enjoying a huge market outside, suffered a decline. To ease the impact of the collapse of the industry, the government provided X-ray machines to detect the weevil and put up measures to help the growers process, pack and market their products.
Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Honest worker honored

MARILAO, Bulacan—To inspire others to follow his fine example, the Marilao government honored an employee of SM Marilao who returned a customer's wallet containing P700,000 in cash and checks. Mayor Epifanio Guillermo led government employees in honoring Wilfredo Garcia for displaying "an utmost level of honesty and kindness." The wallet, which contained about P200,000 cash and P500,000 worth of checks, was left at the mall's food court. Cheryl de la Rama, SM Marilao press relation officer, said the management earlier gave Garcia a plaque of recognition for his deed. "We are proud to have an outstanding Marileño with us. Wilfredo Garcia inspires not only the mall workers but all public servants as well," Guillermo said. Garcia, 27, is under the management of FVR Skills and Exponents Services Inc., one of the personnel agencies of the mall for maintenance services. *Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

3 teeners die in grenade blast

COTABATO CITY—THREE TEENAGERS WERE blasted to death while 15 others were wounded when a retired soldier allegedly tossed a hand grenade at a public dance in Pigcawayan, North Cotabato Friday, police said Saturday.

Policemen and civilian volunteers, led by Pigcawayan police chief Senior Insp. Raulito Suyom, arrested retired Army master sergeant Leo Saiduque after witnesses identified him as the grenade-thrower.

The three fatalities were identified as Leo Omina, 13; Dionel Cepeda, 14; and Jessie Villanes, 14; all residents of Barangay Kimarayag.

Pigcawayan Mayor Herminio Roquero said the public dance was being held as a prelude to Kimarayag's fiesta on Saturday.

Police investigators said prior to the attack, a melee involving Saiduque's group and that of other dance-goers ensued. *Edwin Fernandez with a report from Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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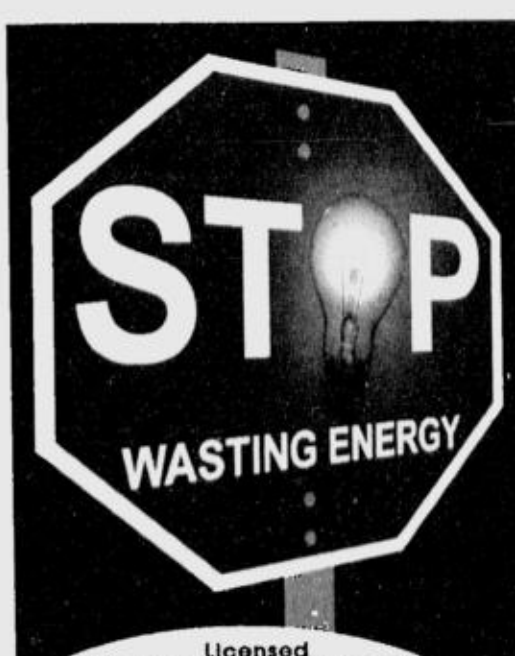

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Weakened hurricane sends crude prices falling

From page A1

and son-in-law when Rita flooded his house south of Erath, Louisiana. A Coast Guard helicopter plucked the battered family from the tree on Saturday afternoon.

Trees litter roads

In Jasper County, within the Piney Woods of East Texas, trees lying over the roads were making it difficult for sheriff's deputies to check on people.

Search and rescue teams working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency arrived late Saturday in Lake Charles, Louisiana, in a convoy of about a dozen vehicles loaded with water, ready-to-eat meals, medical supplies and fuel. The crews planned to get some rest before getting to work not long after dawn Sunday.

By contrast to Katrina, with its death toll of more than 1,000, only one death had been reported by Saturday night. One person was killed in Mississippi when a tornado spawned by the hurricane overturned a mobile home.

"The damage is not as serious as we had expected it to be," said R. David Paulison, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "The evacuations worked."

Authorities used military helicopters and a bus Saturday night to move some of the 83 nursing home residents from Beaumont who had been stranded at an elementary school without power since Friday afternoon.

"It's scary," said Jack Fair, 68, who is undergoing rehabilitation for a concussion. "It's nobody's fault. There's just too much going on." Fair said he was more concerned about fellow residents who were afraid of the dark.

Relatively light

Damage to the vital concentration of oil refineries along the coast appeared relatively light, although industry officials said it was too early to assess whether there would be an impact on oil prices.

Valero Energy Corp. said its 255,000-barrel-per-day Port Arthur refinery sustained significant damage to two cooling towers and a flare stack and would need at least two weeks for repairs.

The US Department of Energy was "cautiously optimistic" that refineries in Houston suffered minimal damage, but said it was too early to determine the effect of the storm on Port Arthur.

Katrina shut in and damaged much of the US refining and production capacity and sent crude prices to record levels above $70 a barrel.

Rita roared ashore at 3:30 a.m. EDT close to the Texas-Louisiana border as a Category 3 hurricane with top winds of 192 kph and warnings of up to 25 inches of rain. By evening, it was downgraded to a tropical depression with top sustained winds of 56 kph as it moved slowly through east Texas.

Some of the worst flooding occurred along the Louisiana coast, where floodwaters were 2.74 meters deep near the town of Abbeville. In Cameron Parish, sheriff's deputies watched appliances and what appeared to be parts of homes swirling in the waters of the Intracoastal Waterway.

New Orleans flooding

About 500 people were rescued from high waters south of New Orleans, some by helicopters. Another 15 to 25 people were reported stranded farther west along the shoreline of Vermilion Parish, but searches were postponed until Sunday because of high winds.

Elsewhere, a portion of Interstate 10 over the Calcasieu River in Lake Charles was closed after barges broke loose from their moorings and slammed into the bridge.

New Orleans, devastated by Katrina barely three weeks ago, endured a second straight day of new flooding that could seriously disrupt recovery plans. The Army Corps of Engineers said it would need at least two weeks to pump water from the most heavily flooded neighborhoods—notably the impoverished Lower Ninth Ward—after crews plug a series of levee breaches.

Texas officials prepared an orderly return of the nearly 3 million people who had fled ahead of the menacing storm, setting up regions that would reopen to evacuees on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday.

President George W. Bush, mindful of criticism the federal government was slow to respond to Hurricane Katrina three weeks ago, visited the Texas emergency operations center in Austin on Saturday.

Like other officials, Bush urged citizens not to prematurely assume the danger was over. *AP*

DOJ studies charges vs 'Hyatt 10'

From page A1

group resigned on July 8 and asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to do the same.

Gonzalez made it clear that he was not preventing anyone from speaking. "They can go ahead with what they want to say. They can preach in any pulpit but freedom of speech is not a license to smear innocent people," he said.

The recourse for people affected by a smear campaign is to file libel cases against their accusers, he said. But the justice secretary said Ms Arroyo was ignoring all the accusations being hurled against her by her former Cabinet officials.

Dinky Soliman

Gonzalez said he was not concerned with the statements against the President issued by the likes of former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman when he sought the conduct of the study.

"It's about the rule of every member of the Gabinet who comes and goes and starts revealing state secrets or confidential information on matters of executive privilege either because he wants to get back at the President, or to make money out of it or get publicity for himself because he wants to run for public office," Gonzalez said.

He said the legal question he was pursuing becomes relevant in view of the lawyer-client privilege in which "if you were my client and I know your secrets I cannot reveal them even after our relationship ends."

"That privilege continues unless we are suing each other," he added.

"If that applies to lawyers and clients, how much more between a President and a member of the Cabinet where probably state secrets and issues of national security were given in confidence in the course of official business," he said.

Twisted

Gonzalez said he had been reading law books and jurisprudence on the subject, and so far he noted that Section 24 of Rule 130 of the Rules of Court somehow had relevance.

The provision bars public officials from speaking about confidential information during their incumbency and after they leave government.

Gonzalez and Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao dismissed Soliman's latest accusation against the President whom she quoted as saying she wanted to "bring in more muscle and fear" in governance.

Tiglao said it was "uncharacteristic" of Soliman to say that line. He said everything Ms Arroyo says would be twisted by Soliman and groups out to oust her.

"That's why we have laws on confidentiality and conversations with the Chief Executive," he said, noting that the United States and the United Kingdom had such laws as well.

Gonzalez said he did not recall the President saying the lines quoted by Soliman.

"Dinky is just dreaming, so she will justify her act of disloyalty," he said.

IN THE KNOW

IN 2002, THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERED DECLARING A STATE OF emergency in certain parts of Mindanao following a series of bombings. Then National Security Adviser Rollo Golez said that in cases of national emergency, the government could suspend the writ of habeas corpus, intensify its crackdown on terrorists or declare martial law.

In a state of emergency, the Constitution allows the government to "temporarily take over or direct the operation of any privately owned public utility or business affected with public interest."

Recently, Congress was urged to give the President emergency powers to address the oil crisis. When the country suffered from frequent brownouts in the 1990s, then President Fidel Ramos was given emergency powers, which he used to offer generous incentives to private power producers to boost electricity supply.

The President may also impose martial law in the country or any part of it for not more than 60 days when rebellion or invasion is endangering the public (Article VII Section 18).

Forty-eight hours after the proclamation, the President must submit a report to Congress. Congress may revoke or extend the proclamation following a majority vote of all senators and representatives. Any citizen may ask the Supreme Court to review the sufficiency of the basis for proclamation.

Martial law does not suspend the Constitution or give the military full jurisdiction over civilians.

PDI Research

Gonzales ...

From page A1

lated by the NSC," Biazon said in an interview.

"Unless what Gonzales did was unilateral. That would mean he's in deeper trouble," he added.

Otherwise, Biazon said, Malacañang could provide a way out for Gonzales by answering the questions Gonzales had refused to address.

"They can send a communication to the committee, and then the committee can begin to consider it. This is just my proposal," he said.

The Senate committee has so far rejected Malacañang pleas that Gonzales be released. The panel has also shrugged off a petition for a writ of habeas corpus filed by Gonzales' sister seeking his freedom.

The senators maintained that only Gonzales could "purge" himself by making a clean breast of the contract.

"The issue here is institutional integrity and what properly lies within the domain or authority of the executive in entering into lobbying contracts," Sen. Manuel "Mar" Roxas II said in a statement.

"So far, Gonzales has not presented any justification for the withholding of any information about the Venable contract," he said.

Institutional collision

The senator also warned that if the issue were not handled properly, an institutional collision might result in a constitutional crisis.

"The authority of institutions to enter into contracts should be made clear. If it's not clear ... remedial measures should be made to prevent similar conflicts in the future," he said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. has suggested that the committee invite Tomas Alcantara, chair of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, which reportedly provided funds for Venable's services.

The funds of Meco, which serves as the country's de facto embassy in Taiwan, are exempt from regular audit by the Commission on Audit.

Also yesterday, the Partido Demokratiko-Sosyalista ng Pilipinas (PDSP) announced prayer rallies would be held across the country for the quick recovery of Gonzales.

A Mass will be said in front of the Heart Center, where Gonzales' supporters have been holding a vigil since Wednesday night. Gonzales is founding chair of PDSP.

Congress won't back martial law, says De Venecia

From page A1

office had drafted the proclamation, saying that he along with De Venecia had been studying the government takeover of oil and power firms as well as air and shipping lines should the country need help in coping with the global oil crisis.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday dismissed as "plain hogwash" talk that the administration was considering martial rule.

He asked the President's detractors not to whip up imagined fears of martial law. "We are a fully functioning democratic state and not a national security state," Bunye said in his weekly column "The View from the Palace."

He said he saw no need to adopt extraordinary measures as mere enforcement of the rule of law would allow the administration to deal with the "present level of threat."

Notify Congress

Under the Constitution, the President is mandated to notify Congress within 48 hours following the imposition of martial law. *(See In the Know on this page.)*

Owing to the harrowing experience of the country under the 20-year Marcos dictatorial regime, the framers of the 1987 Constitution empowered Congress to lift martial law if in its view the conditions for its imposition did not exist.

Only in cases of invasion or rebellion can the President declare martial law for a period not exceeding 60 days.

"I will never sponsor any measure in Congress that will put the country under martial law," said De Venecia, president of the ruling Lakas-CMD party, which leads the administration coalition in the Lower House.

The Speaker issued the statement a day after returning from speaking engagements in New York and Washington where he pushed for debt-for-equity to convert half of the foreign debt of the Philippines and 99 other heavily indebted middle-income nations into antipoverty funds.

Oil crisis

De Venecia distanced himself from Gonzalez, saying he was merely consulted on the prospect of a government takeover of key private industries to mitigate the effects on the economy of surging oil prices.

Although Gonzalez insisted that what he was contemplating would be akin to an economic emergency rather than military rule, De Venecia said he had made it clear to the justice secretary that the public would never agree to a setup in which the executive would have additional police powers.

"He consulted me on how to cope with the unavoidable ill effects of the global oil crisis on people's livelihood and on the economy as a whole," De Venecia said.

The Speaker said he agreed with Gonzalez that it was prudent to prepare for any economic emergency as a result of the oil crisis. "But I stated my belief that the oil crisis will resolve itself well short of a global emergency," said De Venecia.

Suspension of certain laws

For his part, Sen. Rodolfo Biazon said the situation did not necessitate a government takeover of private enterprises, much less the declaration of martial law.

"There's no justification for the declaration of martial law," said the senator, who as Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff quelled coup attempts against the Aquino administration in the late 1980s.

Biazon saw nothing irregular in the government plan to take over private firms as long Malacañang first got the approval of Congress. "Probably what should be considered is a proposal to Congress for the suspension of certain laws," he said.

He recalled that Congress suspended the Government Procurement Reform Act, which required open public bidding, at the height of the power crisis in the early years of the Ramos administration.

"Ramos was allowed to enter into contracts without public bidding for a year," he said.

Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan cautioned Malacañang against taking over private enterprises to offset the crippling effects of the oil crisis.

"We should view extreme measures with extreme caution in order to avoid a situation wherein we may in fact be jumping from the frying pan into the fire," he said in an interview.

"It would do well for Malacañang to stay clear of considering such drastic measures that may exacerbate rather than solve our problems," he said.

He wondered how taking over oil companies would bring down crude oil prices.

Hacienda Luisita

Pangilinan suggested that the government draw up "doable and workable solutions" to the country's problems.

"Knee-jerk responses that are meant to divert public discontent may do more harm than good," he said.

Pangilinan, however, doubted Gonzalez issued the statement to cover up a possible government plan to impose emergency rule.

"No, I don't think so. We're together in the Judicial Bar Council. In fairness to him he mentioned this to me a month ago in one of our meetings," the senator said, referring to the government's planned takeover of private enterprises.

"If by private firm, he (Gonzalez) means Hacienda Luisita, they're in for a big fight from the Cojuangcos," Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said, referring to the Cojuangco clan-owned sugar plantation in Tarlac.

Former President Corazon Aquino, a member of the Cojuangco family, has called on Ms Arroyo to step down.

Threats have abated

Bunye said the threats against the administration had "abated and we are back on economic stabilization and growth mode."

"While the government exercises perpetual vigilance against threats to national security, the present threat level can be handled by the strong enforcement of the rule of law without need of extraordinary measures," he said.

Last week, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita announced the government was enforcing a "calibrated preemptive response" policy in lieu of maximum tolerance in dealing with rallies against the President.

Ermita said the policy, which includes the strict enforcement of the "no permit, no rally" policy, was in response to the business community and the public's complaints about the rallies that disrupt traffic and cause disturbances.

In an interview aired on RMN radio, Bunye said the new policy was intended to protect the majority of the people. While the Constitution guarantees the right to assembly and to free speech, these are not "absolute" rights, he reiterated.

"It's important we recognize that every right has its limitation," he said. "We cannot trample on the rights of others."

"The noisy minority can take their fight elsewhere. After all they have open access to the media and are free to air their sentiments," Bunye said.

There's no stopping Aswang Festival

From page A1

and lure them into town.

Despite objections from different sectors, led by an archbishop of the Roman Catholic Church, the province of Capiz is pushing ahead with its plans to stage an Aswang Festival on Oct. 28-30.

In Philippine folklore, *aswang* is a viscera-sucking creature that flies at night in search of human internal organs, fetuses and infants.

Arnel Estiaga, a board member of organizer Dugo Kapisnon Inc. (DKI), said nobody can stop the holding of the festival, which was successfully held for the first time last year.

He said organizers were determined to show critics that Capiz's negative image as a land supposedly populated by aswang could be turned into an advantage.

This year's festivities, like last year's, will have a halloween-like motif and include a parade and a masquerade ball where participants are expected to wear the most frightening costumes they could think of.

Some people with what may look like blood dripping from their mouths may also turn up at a planned body-painting contest.

But not everything will be make-believe. The bravehearted will find a booth where they can donate their own fresh, human blood for a humanitarian cause.

The festivities will be a celebration of the Capiznon myth and culture.

Bewitching the tourists

Estiaga said the organizers would exert efforts to enlighten the public about the local culture.

The three-day festival will showcase the best of Capiz "in [terms of] tempting cuisines and alluring local entertainment, beguiling tourists and visitors with a longing for the charm that only Capiz can claim as its own, making them completely bewitched," Estiaga said.

A figment of imagination

Roxas City Councilor Ramon Albar, who delivered a scathing speech against the festival last year, said he would continue to protest the use of "aswang" to describe the festivities.

Mayor Antonio del Rosario said he saw nothing wrong with the holding of the festival.

He said the organizers' aim was to show that the "aswang" label associated with Capiz and its people was just a product of people's imaginations. Besides, he added, the festival would be a pre-Halloween affair culminating on the eve of All Saints' Day.

Glorifying evil

Last year, the Catholic Church stayed away from the debate for and against the festival even if some religious groups had staged a prayer rally the day before the celebration, urging organizers to stop the event.

Some critics said the festivities would "glorify evil" and they smacked of paganism.

But in April, Capiz Archbishop Onesimo Gordoncillo joined the fray, releasing a pastoral letter which denounced the staging of the festival.

There is no aswang

The pastoral letter said the festival was an insult to God and could divide the faithful on matters of religious belief.

Defenders of the celebration say they saw nothing wrong with it since the aswang was not real, anyway.

Half of Naga folk live in flood-prone areas, study shows

NAGA CITY—AT LEAST 58 PERcent of the people here are living under constant threat of flooding, a risk assessment hazard study conducted in 2000 has estimated.

The study of the Naga City Disaster Mitigation Project, which sought to promote awareness of the potential hazards of a locality, was implemented by the League of Cities and the Philippine Business for Social Progress.

The study in Naga City found that 17 of 27 villages are flood-prone areas with depths of flooding varying from less than a meter to more than two meters and lasting for about three hours to a few days.

The flood-prone villages, it said, have a total population concentration of 74,033 based on the National Census and Statistics Office's total population data of 126,972 in 1995.

Inundation map

"The flood-prone area of Naga City is quite extensive. A review of the inundation map of the most recent storms shows that most of the flooded areas are in the vicinity of the Bicol and Naga rivers," the study said.

Of the 17 flood-prone villages, seven have household concentration of more than 1,000. These included the barangays of Abella, Bagumbayan Sur and Norte, Caluag, Peñafrancia, Sabang, Sta. Cruz and Triangulo.

"Initial field investigation of Naga City's frequently flooded areas and other risk areas indicates that these areas are fully inhabited, located in the commercial and residential zones of the city," the study said.

The flood-prone areas have a higher population density than the rest of Naga City, the study also found.

The study warned that in the frequently flooded areas, a greater number of people could become more susceptible to hazard.

"In a much compact and smaller area, damage can be greater due to relatively much higher concentration of population," it added.

The study noted that land filling to arrest localized flooding within the commercial and residential districts had created pockets of low ground that are regularly flooded even during moderate thunderstorms.

Naga City nestles in the lower portion of the Bicol River basin area, the big swath of low-lying areas that traverses Albay province and the two Camarines provinces.

It serves as a catchment area of the Bicol Peninsula, where periodic flooding occurs.

Arturo Balang, chief meteorologist of the Camaligan Bicol River Flood Forecasting Center said Naga City is among the areas where the run-off passes through as it is emptied in the northeastern side of San Miguel Bay.

He said floodwaters start from the run-off that come from the upper Bicol River basin in the western slope of Mayon Volcano, flows down into the middle portion at the boundary of Camarines Sur to the Metro Naga areas in the lower portion of the basin area. The area is composed of 21 contiguous towns and cities within the flood path.

Flood alerts

A downpour of 180 millimeters and more in a day requires the forecasting center to announce a heavy flooding advisory to affected residents and advise them to contact local disaster coordinating units and take appropriate actions, he said.

Balang said the flooding deteriorates to a crisis level in the lower portion of the Bicol River basin area when there is high tide at the San Miguel Bay.

The shoreward tide prevents the flow of run-off water to the seas that, he said, could inundate the area by several meters.

The study was funded by the United States Agency for International Development through the Asian Urban Disaster Mitigation Program, which is implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center in Bangkok, Thailand. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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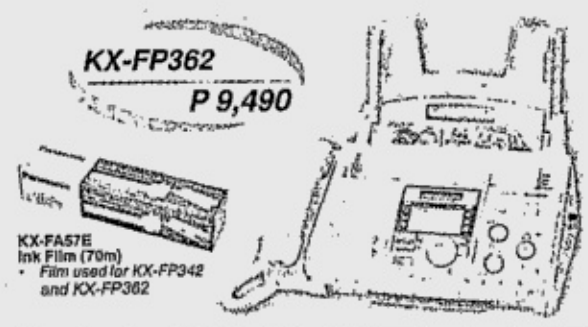

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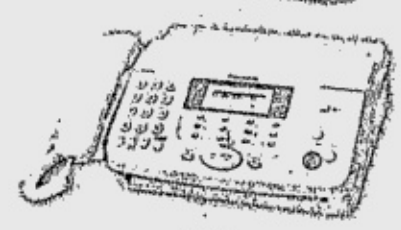

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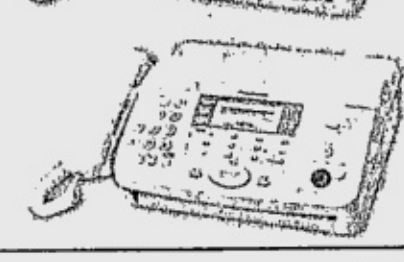

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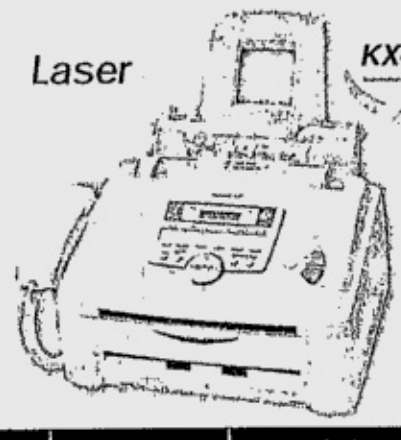

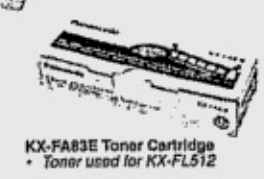

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EDSA-Katipunan Biko Route

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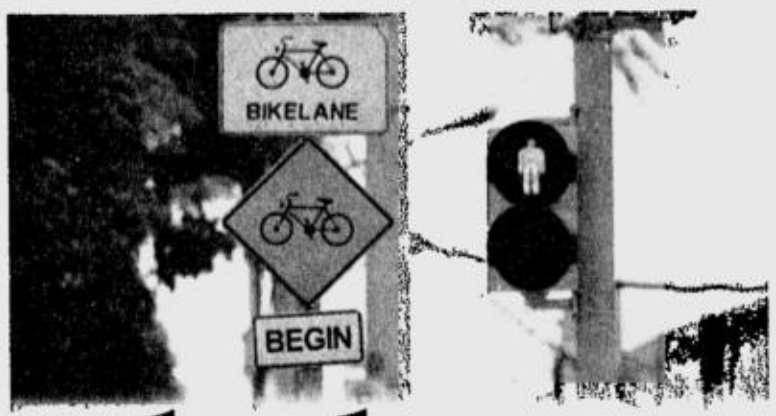
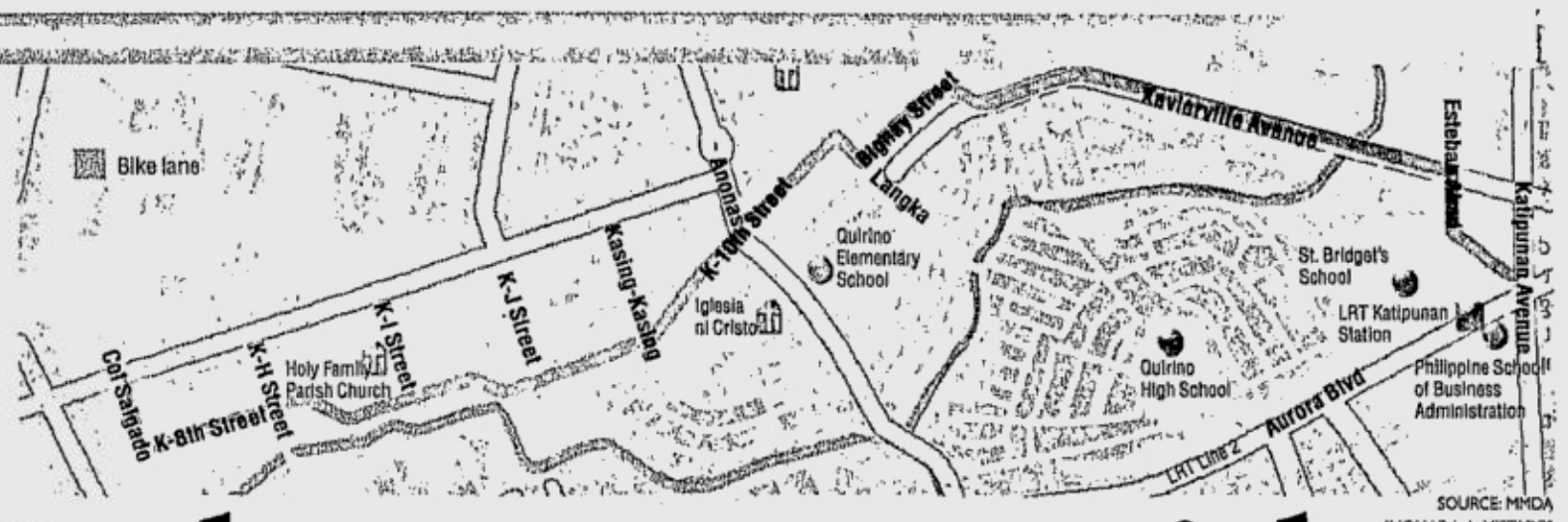




SOURCE: MMDA
INQMAP: L.A. MISTADES

Bike lanes: Park at your own risk

By Tarra V. Quismundo

KEEP OFF THE PINK LINE.

The Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) warned yesterday that motorists caught breaching the agency's pilot bicycle lane along Xavierville Avenue in Quezon City would face sanctions.

"The bike lane has so many signs, more than enough for motorists to recognize that the lane is exclusively for bikers," said Angelito Vergel de Dios, MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director.

On Saturday, the agency launched its first bike lane, a 3.6-kilometer pedal-only lane traversing Xavierville Avenue and other secondary streets, connecting Edsa and Katipunan Avenue for bikers.

White and pink lines

This pilot bike way, a segment of the planned 200-km interconnected walk and bike way system under the MMDA's Metro Padyakan project, is marked by a combination of white and pink lines.

The lane itself is painted with bike symbols, also in pink, while signages have been placed on the sidewalk along which the lane has been laid. The MMDA said the bike lane shall be for exclusive use of bikers, as motorists would still have enough space to drive on with at least four lanes left on Xavierville Avenue.

"There shall be no excuse if they bypass the lane, because the signs we placed are very visible and they should follow it," Vergel de Dios said.

Obstruction

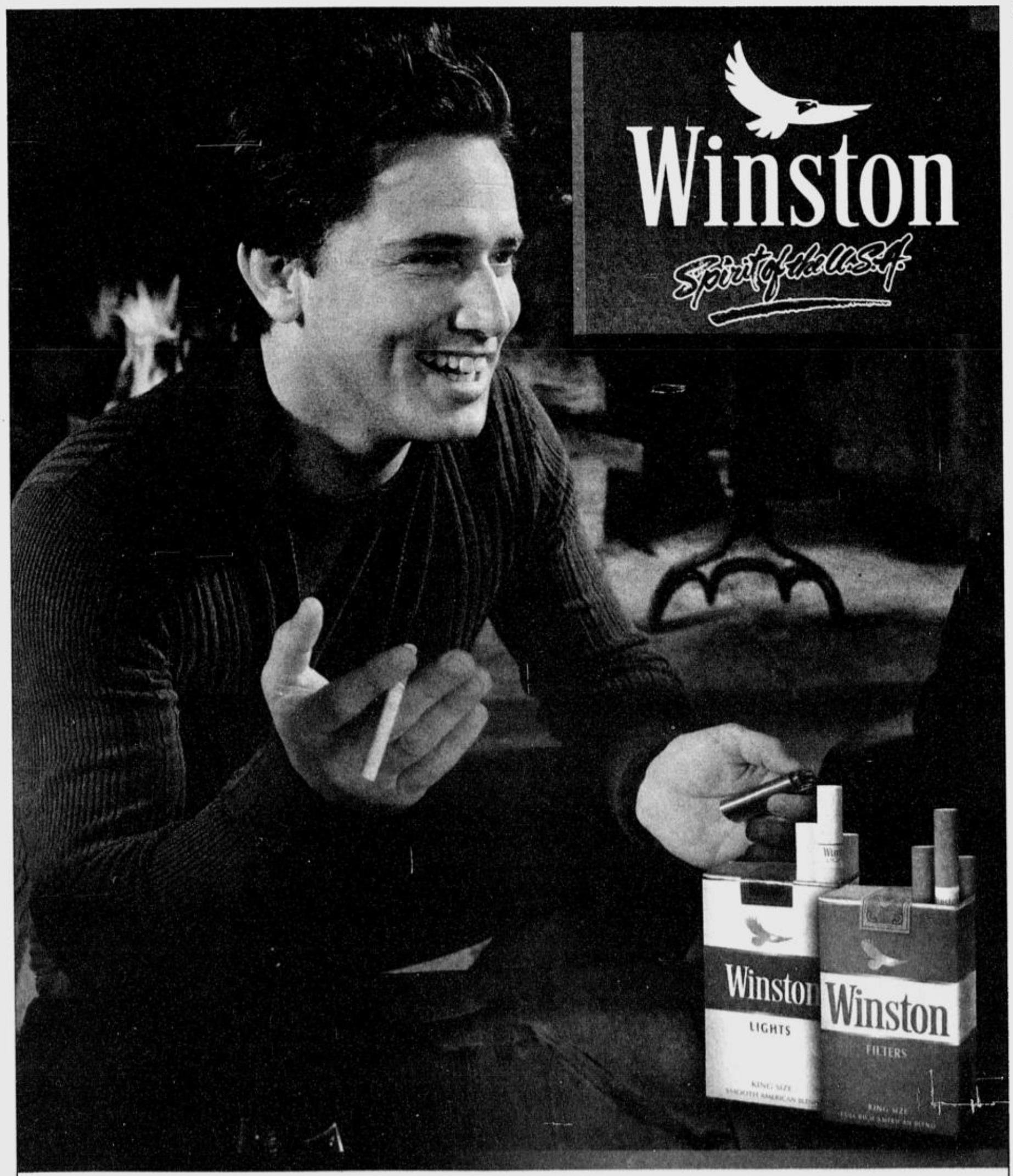
He said vehicles caught entering the lane or using it as parking space may be cited for violations such as obstruction of pedestrian and bike traffic, and disregarding traffic signs.

Asked whether the cars would be banned from the bike lane 24 hours a day, the traffic director said the scheme must be observed "as much as possible."

Night riders

"Besides, if it's already late at night and there are no more bikers, there could also be only a few cars on the road, and they won't have to pass through the bike lanes," the traffic chief said.

He added that while bike lanes and its entailed signages would seem new to the metro's motorists, vehicle owners must have already heard about it given the publicity the Metro Padyakan project had so far received.



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Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Makati sees businesses staying put

By Tarra V. Quismundo

BRING IT ON.

. Welcoming some competition, the country's financial capital has expressed confidence that it would remain a premier business location in Metro Manila despite its planned tax raise and a neighboring city's idea to lower its own tax rates.

Challenged to a seeming tug-of-war for investors and business locators by a promising business hub, the Makati City local government flexed some muscles and said before the weekend that it was not threatened by plans of Taguig City to downgrade its tax rates.

Not just taxes

"It's not just about taxes. A city must be able to provide quality public services. The infrastructure must be advanced, especially in information technology. These are among the many advantages of locating in Makati," said Makati City Secretary Rogelio Marasigan in a statement.

The business capital's stance came about following Taguig's recent announcement that it was poised to lower local tax rates for banks and other financial firms, just as Makati was planning to revise its revenue code to up business tax rates.

The next-door neighbor, host to an up and coming financial district in the Fort Bonifacio Global City, was apparently raring to be more attractive to locators and even encourage Makati-based firms to relocate, by offering business tax rate of a low of .08 percent of annual receipts.

Doubled tax rates

On the other hand, Makati had begun public hearings for its proposed new revenue code, which would double tax rates for banks and financial institutions from 0.15 percent of annual gross receipts to 0.3 percent once implemented.

Some of Makati's business leaders have warned that higher tax rates in the financial capital might turn off investors. But despite the threats and warnings, City Hall was unfazed.

"Investors consider several factors in selecting locations, including the capability of the local government and the quality of life in the city," Marasigan said, adding that the tax hike has been long overdue as the city has yet to raise its tax rates since 1992.

Existing infrastructure

The city was apparently banking on its existing business infrastructure in the Central Business District (CBD), including establishments with wireless internet capability. Currently, Makati hosts about half of the country's 500 top companies, 53 embassies, call centers, and other business establishments, said City Hall.

To help give its investors peace of mind, Makati City would also be opening before the end of the year its new police headquarters at the Ayala Avenue extension, within sight of CBD's high-rises, and a 24-hour command center that would link all of the city's security and emergency response agencies.

4 criminals outgun cops in QC gunplay

TWO POLICEMEN WERE WOUNDED IN A shootout with criminals shortly before noon yesterday in Quezon City.

PO2 Ricardo Manipon and PO2 Hermie Fidelo of the Fairview Police Station were patrolling Quirino Highway in Barangay Kaligayahan in a police van at 11:30 a.m. when they chanced upon four suspicious looking men, police said.

Manipon recognized one of the men as a notorious robber in the area, police said.

As the policemen approached, two of the suspects suddenly pulled out their guns and opened fire, a police report said.

Manipon and Fidelo were shot in the body, but they were able to hit one of the suspects, police said.

The gunmen ran to a nearby townhouse and managed to flee even as other policemen responded to the incident. *DJ Yap*

GOODBYE 15-30
A Valenzuela City employee swipes in before scanning her finger at one of five biometrics stations installed at City Hall to monitor the attendance of employees. The system requires the presence of employees to log in, preventing the occurrence of ghost employees.

Business as usual at hosed down BI

By Leila B. Salaverria

NOT EVEN THE FIRE THAT HIT the Bureau of Immigration (BI) building or the ensuing hosing down of its offices could stop the agency from suspending transactions today.

The public would still be able to conduct business with the BI today, said Executive Director Roy Almoro.

"We've met with the commissioner and we already have a contingency plan. We'll be able to do business with the public on Monday. Maybe there will be some inconvenience because some of the offices are wet, but we'll be open," he said in a phone interview.

Almoro's second-floor office was among those most damaged in the blaze that swept through the BI's second, third and fourth floors. The fire was believed to have started in a kitchen in his office.

Also affected by the fire was the adjacent office of BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr.

Fernandez earlier said no important documents, including the watch list, hold departure orders and illegal alien records, were lost in the blaze.

The BI would try to reconstitute the documents that had been destroyed, Almoro said yesterday.

Among the services that the BI would still be able to provide are the granting of visa extensions, assisting and giving permits to foreign students and accepting applications for and issuing the alien certificate of registration (ACR-I) cards, according to immigration regulation chief Edgardo Mendoza.

Mendoza said the processing of ACR-I cards was done at another building, which is adjacent to the BI's main office, and this was why the said transaction would not be affected.

All registered foreigners are required to get the electronic ACR-I cards, which would replace the paper-based ACR cards earlier issued them.

BSP hosts 'Two years later'

By Joe Galvez

AFTER HIS SUCCESSFUL "Les Fleurs' d' Alphones" art exhibit held at the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) lobby in 2003, impressionist painter Jesse Alfonso will present his new works called "Deux ans apres (Two years after)" at the same venue from Sept. 19 to 30.

A behavioral training specialist by profession, Alfonso manages to spend most of his after-office hours and weekends in his studio, creating colorful images of life and its abundance.

Painting has been his passion long before he joined the Saturday Group with artists Malang and Pacquing Verano, and lately, the Agos Kulay Group.

His last art exhibit at the BSP was a collection of works which was inspired by rock formations. Alfonso says he has always been mesmerized by its unseen power.

"There's beauty in its subdued strength," he said. "Mix rocks with water and you see life flowing. Rocks are the Yin and Yang of everything."

In his forthcoming show, his sudden shift in subjects will reveal the inner most essences of his preferred subjects. Alfonso admits that the clamor of art connoisseurs for more colorful and subdued flowers, sceneries, landscapes and nudes, had confined him again to his studio where stroke after stroke of colorful hues and tints and shades produced dozens of breath-taking canvasses.

Alfonso defines landscapes as having a perpetual and universal appeal. In creating his recent works, the artist explained that his recent works evolved from a stylized mixing of oil on canvass.

NBI raids 2 more cable providers

By Margaux C. Ortiz

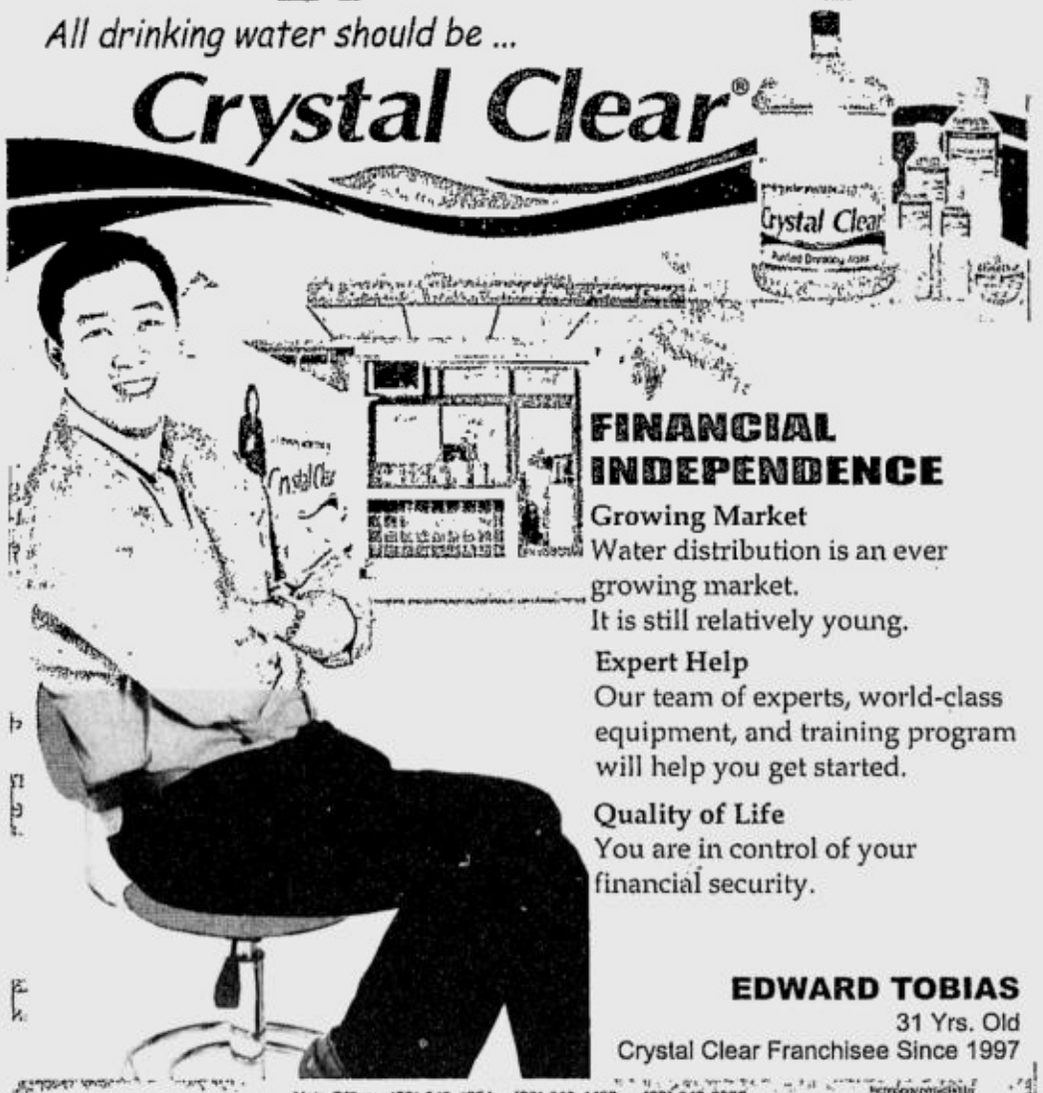
THE BATTLE AGAINST SIGNAL PIRACY continues.

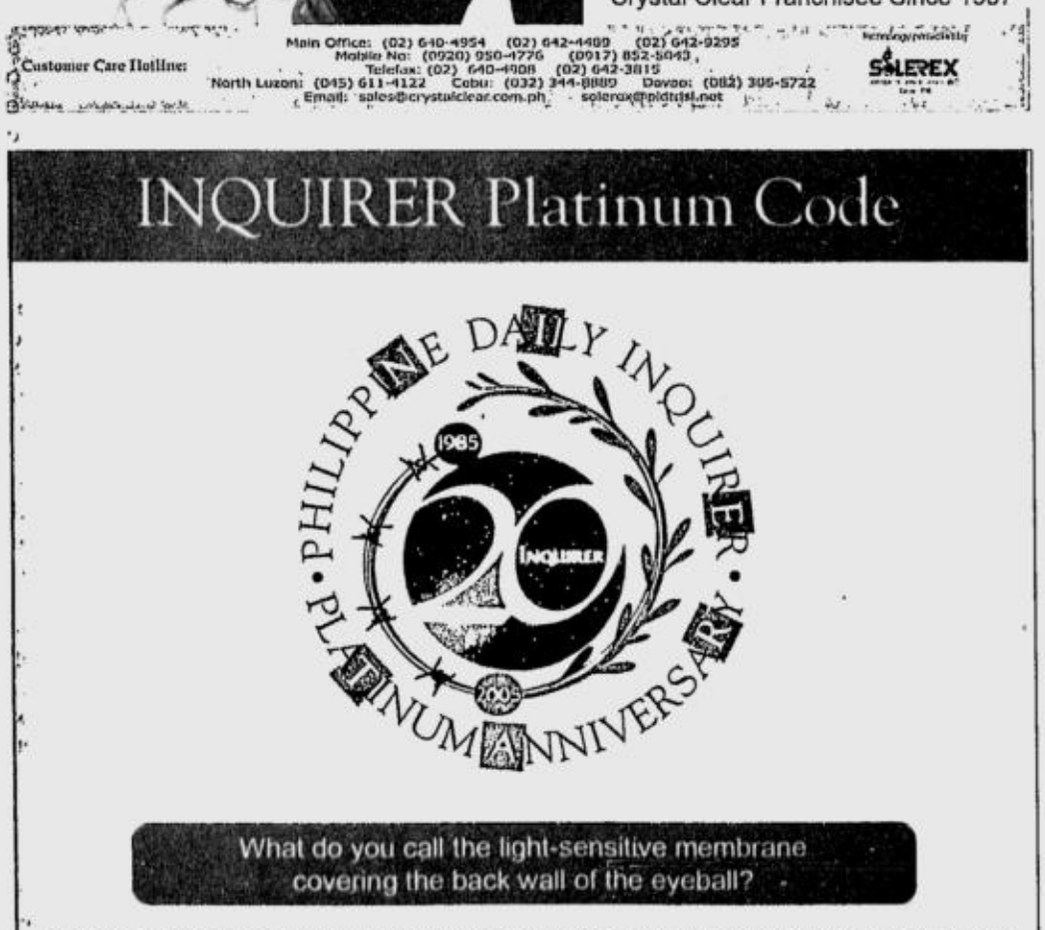
The National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) raided the office and two provincial cable stations of a corporation allegedly involved in the unauthorized distribution of cable channels through signal piracy.

Senior Agent Joel Tovera of the NBI Intellectual Property Rights Division (IPRD) said bureau operatives raided Telmare Cable Company's office in San Antonio Village, Pasig City, and its two cable stations in Alaminos, Laguna and Taytay, Rizal, on Friday.

Tovera said the cable company illegally distributed nine member channels of US-based Cable and Satellite Broadcasting Association of Asia including Star World, Star Movies, Star Sports, ESPN, AXN, MTV, Disney Channel, Discovery Channel and National Geographic.

Armed with 27 search warrants issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., the NBI agents seized P3 million worth of cable operation equipment including a satellite dish, decoder, system convector, modulator, receiver, TV monitors, personal computers, transaction sheets and journals.





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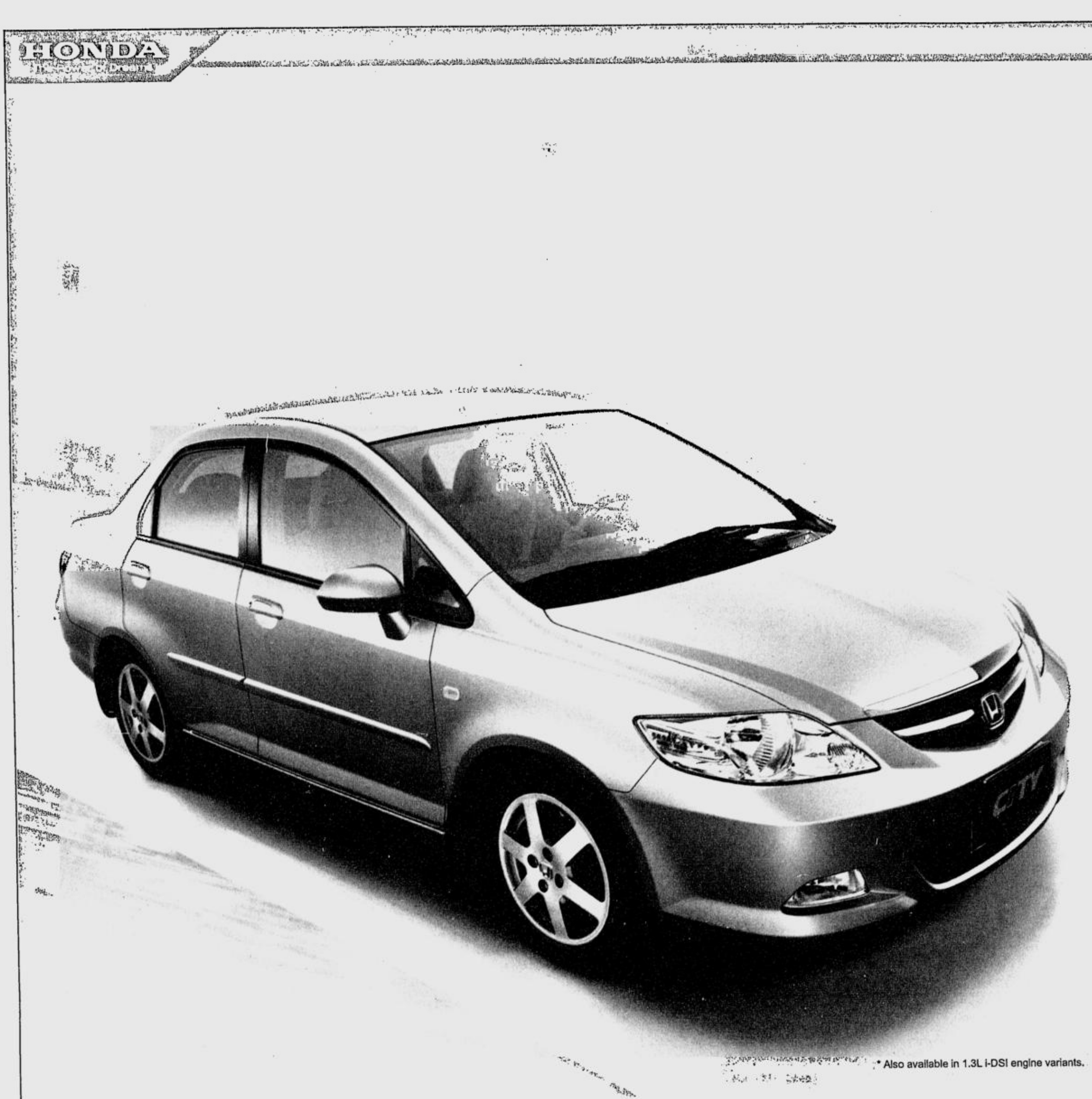

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La Salle, FEU rip foes, enter finals

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOR THE THIRD TIME THIS SEASON, THE LA Salle Archers coolly dispatched their bitter rivals Ateneo Eagles.

Responding to some halftime adjustments, the Archers blasted the Eagles, 74-57, yesterday in the UAAP basketball semifinals to book their 11th Finals appearance in 12 years at the Araneta Coliseum.

"I'm so proud of my boys," said coach Franz Pumaren after the defending champions sent the Eagles packing for the second straight season. "I think we overachieved again. It was all hard work on our part. Hats off to my veterans especially Joseph Yeo."

As their undisputed go-to guy, Yeo again made huge plays for the Archers, firing 23 of his 28 points in the second half.

The Archers will again be chasing the title versus the top-seeded Far Eastern U Tamaraws, who coasted past the University of the East Warriors, 78-57, in their own Final Four match.

Coach Bert Flores said his Tamaraws are pumped up to reclaim the crown that eluded them in the best-of-three series, 2-1, last year.

"We want to win the championship this year and that's one reason that Arwind Santos didn't join the PBA draft," noted Flores.

Pumaren, who steered the Archers to five titles in seven years, commended his players for their strong push at the end of the elimination round.

"Most of the season, we were running fourth or fifth but we peaked at the right time," added Pumaren.

The momentum shifted to the Archers after the break. They wrested the lead at 28-25 before Yeo keyed an 11-0 spurt to lift La Salle to its first double-digit lead, 43-31, late in the third quarter.

The Archers, who posted an average winning margin of 17.3 points over coach Norman Black's crew in three games, were never troubled the rest of the way as the Eagles couldn't get any closer than 10 points in the final period.

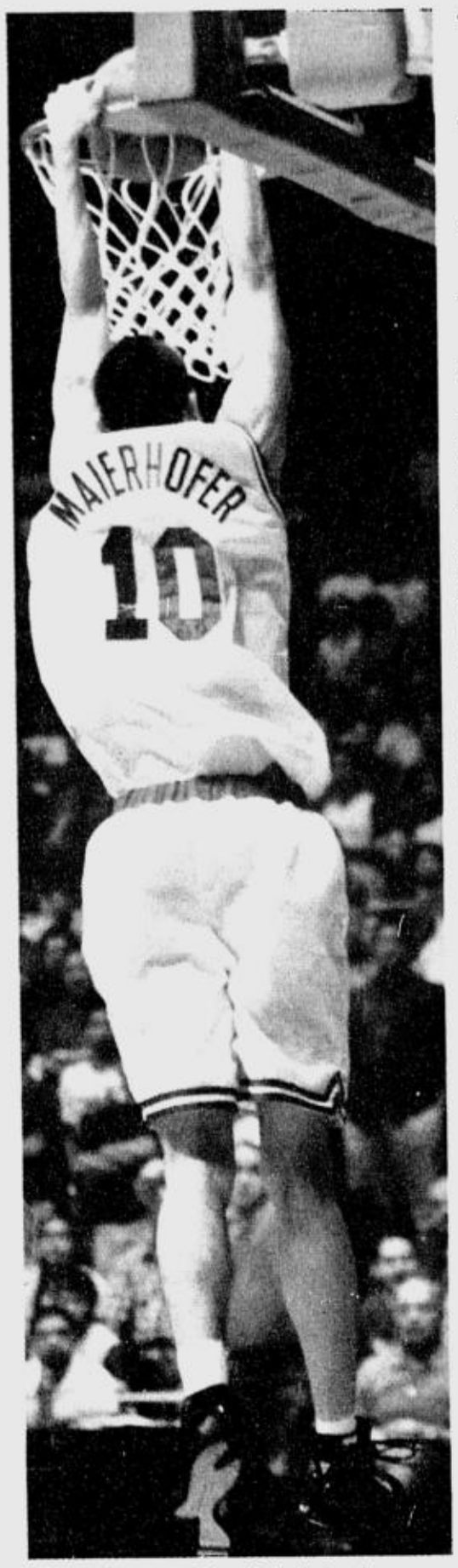
There was no hint of the rout in the first half as the Eagles played strongly behind league star LA Tenorio, who wrapped up his collegiate career with a team-high 20 points on top of six rebounds, three assists and four steals.

Ateneo even took the half at 25-22 but the Eagles just couldn't keep keep in step when the Archers upped their pace in the third quarter.

Earlier, playmaker Simon Atkins drilled in 23 points as the La Salle

LA SALLE/ A26

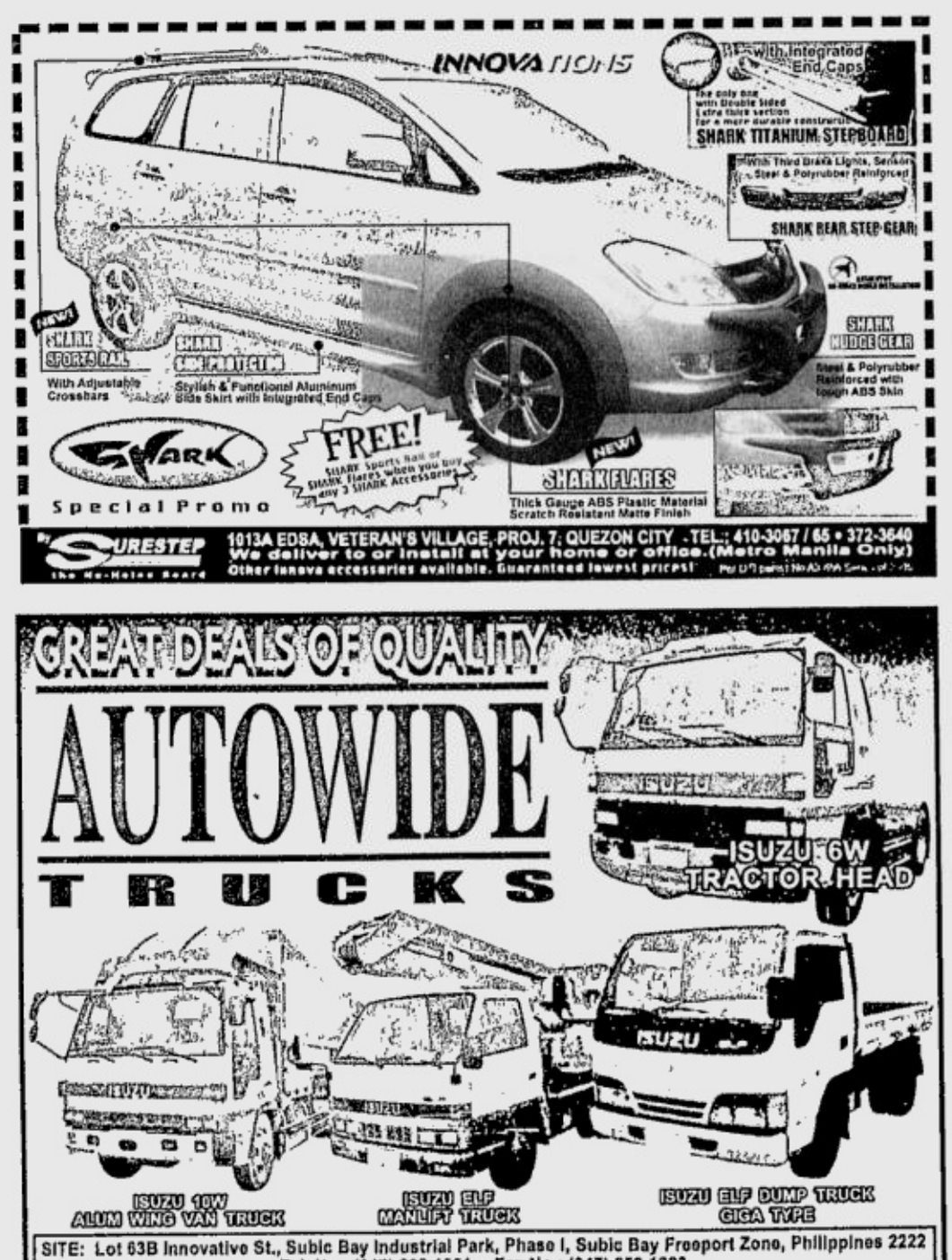
GAMES THURSDAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
11:30 a.m.—Adamson vs Ateneo (Women-Finals)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Ateneo (Jrs-Semis)
3:30 p.m.—FEU vs La Salle (Srs-Finals)



ARCHERS center Rico Maierhofer slams home an exclamation point in La Salle's ruthless rout of fierce rival Ateneo in yesterday's Final Four. ERNIE SARMIENTO

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Gejon drops split decision vs Niida in WBA title bout /A26



Gejon drops split decision vs Niida

YOKOHAMA, JAPAN—JAPAN'S YUTAka Niida narrowly won a 2-1 split decision to beat Eriberto "Yukka" Gejon of the Philippines in his defense of the World Boxing Association (WBA) minimumweight title on Sunday.

Wan Soo-Yuh of Korea and Pinit Prayadsab of Thailand both scored the fight for Niida, 96-95, while Panama's Medardo Villalobos had Gejon the winner via 97-93 score.

Gejon cut his right eye lid in the 10th round and the fight was stopped by the referee to leave the three judges to decide the winner.

"I'm very sorry to have put on a poor fight," said Niida. "I wasn't able to perform at my best."

It was Niida's third defense of the title he wrested from Noel Arambulet of Venezuela in July last year, stretching his record to 19 wins, including eight KOs, three draws against one defeat.

Niida, 26, also became the champion in Aug. 2001, beating Chana Porpaoin of Thailand, but he gave up the title without defending it soon afterwards.

He defeated Juan Landaeta of Venezuela in his first defense of the title in October last year before beating Kim Jae-Won of South Korea in April.

For the 28-year-old Gejon, ranked second in the WBA, it was his first taste of defeat after winning 12 times and drawing once.

"I was confident to beat him (Niida)," said Gejon. "His punches are not strong at all."

Gejon added: "He intentionally did a butting (in the 10th round), but they didn't penalize it. It's not fair. I want a rematch."

VICTORIOUS: Heavyweight Wladimir Klitschko (left) connects to the nose of Samuel Peter during the seventh round in a NABF Championship bout in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Klitschko, knocked down thrice in the match, won with a unanimous decision. REUTERS

Also in the same card, Japan's Hozumi Hasegawa successfully defended his World Boxing Council (WBC) bantamweight title for the first time with a lopsided knockout victory over Gerardo Martinez of Mexico.

The knockout time was two minutes and 18 seconds into the seventh round.

Hasegawa overwhelmed Martinez from the first round, repeatedly connecting with left hooks and straight lefts to the face. He floored the Mexican in the second round with another lightning left hook.

Hasegawa knocked Martinez down again in the third round, in which the Mexican suffered a cut near his right eye, and continued to control the fight in the following rounds.

At the beginning of the seventh Hasegawa fired a straight left to the face for another knockdown. He unleashed a right-left combination to send Martinez to the canvas again before finishing off with a left for a third knockdown in the round.

Hasegawa, 24, stretched his record to 19 wins, including six KOs, against two defeats. *AFP*

Torres leads charge of RP tracksters in foreign tilts

MARESTELLA TORRES PROVIDED THE exclamation point as the Philippine track and field team pulled off a string of golden surprises in three international tournaments over the weekend serving as the nationals' final tuneup stint for the coming 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

Torres proved she still has a lot to give after a silver medal finish in the Asian Athletic Championships three weeks ago by ruling the long jump event in the by-invitation-only Daegu International in Korea on Saturday.

Now the owner of the new RP mark of 6.63 meters she set also in Korea, Torres leapt 6.57 meters to capture the gold. She earned $2,500 for the victory she achieved over a bet from Korea (6.36) and a Kazakhstan entry (6.34).

The only other Filipino invited to the event, long-distance specialist Eduardo Buenavista, finished fourth in the 5,000 meters with a time of 14 minutes 8.50 seconds behind entries from Ethiopia (13:42.74), Kenya (13:53.79) and Japan (14:07.41).

Buenavista, who is going for a 5,000-10,000 double in the coming Southeast Asian Games in Manila, pocketed $1,100.

Torres and Buenavista also earned $500 each for participating in the prestigious event.

"Again, our Filipino tracksters showed they're not only SEA Games potentials," said track and field chief Go Teng Kok.

Go is currently in Singapore, where the Philippines also made waves in another athletic meet.

Sean Guevarra had already won a gold in high jump and Henry Dagmil a silver in long jump.

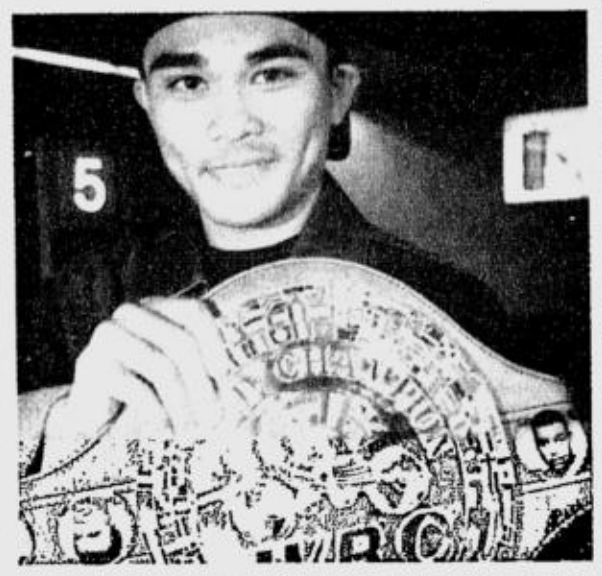
The track and field team, whose pre-SEA Games campaigns were all bankrolled by San Miguel Corp. and Philippine Games and Amusement Corp. through the First Gentleman Foundation, also won seven golds, four silvers and a bronze medal in the Malaysian National Open.

Joebert Delicano ruled the long jump (7.54 metes) and triple jump (15.80), Mary Grace Milgar the 400 hurdles (59.41), Rene Herrera the 3,000 steeplechase (9:11.78), Narcisa Atienza the high jump (1.77), Midel Dique the 800 meters (1:53.29) and Alonzo Jardin the decathlon (6,430 points).

The silver winners were Dandy Gallenero in javelin (62.49), Jero Perater in hammer throw (50.25), Roberto Fresnido in decathlon (6,311) and Atienza in shotput (11.45), aside from a bronze in the long jump (5.59).

CHAMP ARRIVES

Filipino-American Brian Viloria shows off his WBC light flyweight championship belt upon his arrival at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport yesterday. The Hawaii-based Viloria, who bears the moniker "Hawaiian Punch," flew in to visit an ailing relative in Ilocos Sur, where his parents are from. Viloria was one of three fighters who did the country proud when they all triumphed in a big fight card in Los Angeles recently. The other two were Filipino ring sensation Manny Pacquiao and Rey "Boom Boom" Bautista. ROGER MARGALLO



Lakewood joins Sta. Lucia golf

AND THEN IT'S UP TO EIGHT.

Starting out with just four clubs and a little more than a hundred players, the Sta. Lucia Tour enters its sixth season in the first weekend of October with the field increasing to eight delegations from all over the country.

The Lakewood Golf Club in Cabanatuan City joins Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club and Orchard Golf and Country Club of Cavite, Alta Vista Golf and Country Club of Cebu, Rancho Palos Verdes Golf and Country Club of Davao, Royale Tagaytay, Lake Caliraya Springs Golf and Country Club of Laguna and last year's debutante Summit Golf and Country Club of Batangas in the participating cast.

All eight exclusive clubs belong to the Sta. Lucia Realty family of courses which have mushroomed all over the archipelago through the years in joint venture partnerships with various groups.

The Tour has Samsung, Omega, Titleist-Footjoy as hole-in-one sponsors and Philippine Airlines as official airline. Partner hotels for the new season are Marco Polo (Davao), Marriot (Cebu) and The Bellevue (Manila) with Unirock/Readycon and Pisanti as hole sponsors.

Rancho Palos Verdes broke the domination of Eagle Ridge and Alta Vista by winning the Sta. Lucia Cup, symbol of overall supremacy in the series, last year. Team and individual prizes per leg and for the whole series will be contested.

The Sta. Lucia Tour's executive committee co-chaired by Vicente Santos and engineer Winfred Gob is putting a limit of 240 players for the Tour with each club allotted corresponding slots.

The Tour starts at Alta Vista in Cebu on Oct. 6-8 with the second stop to be hosted by the Rancho Palos Verdes on Nov. 3-5. Winding up the series is a three-course, 54-hole series at Summit Point, Eagle Ridge Aoki course and the newly renovated Player course of Orchard.

Santos said that due to popular demand, they are reverting back to the original format of letting all players compete in the same leg after dividing them to two batches last year.

La Salle, FEU rip foes. . .

From page A25

Bengals claimed the first title berth in junior play after tripping the FEU Baby Tams, 74-66.

Santos Marfori's split free throws with 16.2 seconds left lifted the UP Junior Maroons past defending champion Ateneo Eaglets, 62-61, to force a knockout match for the remaining Finals seat.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

LA SALLE 74—Yeo 28, Malerhofer 10, Araña 9, Villanueva 8, Tang 8, Aquino 5, Benitez 4, Cabatu 2, Rivera 0, Casio 0, Barua 0.

ATENEO 57—Tenorio 20, Membrere 15, Intal 8, Aguilar 6, Reyes 2, Quimson 2, Laterre 2, Kramer 2, Nazareno 0, Escalona 0.

Quarters: 11-10, 22-25, 50-36, 74-57

Second Game (Srs)

FEU 78—Fernandez 12, Barcellano 12, Santos 11, Rizada 8, Mangahas 8, Isip 6, Adolfo 6, Chan 5, Jo. Villanueva 4, Saldua 4, Nietes 2, Je. Villanueva 0, Dela Cruz 0.

UE 57—Borboran 11, Palaganas 9, Raymundo 9, Sagulndel 7, Arellano 7, Lapeña 3, Labagala 3, Cañizares 3, Martinez 2, Gregorio 2, Espiritu 1, Napo 0, Custodio 0, Babilinio0.

Quarters: 15-14, 39-28, 63-39, 78-57

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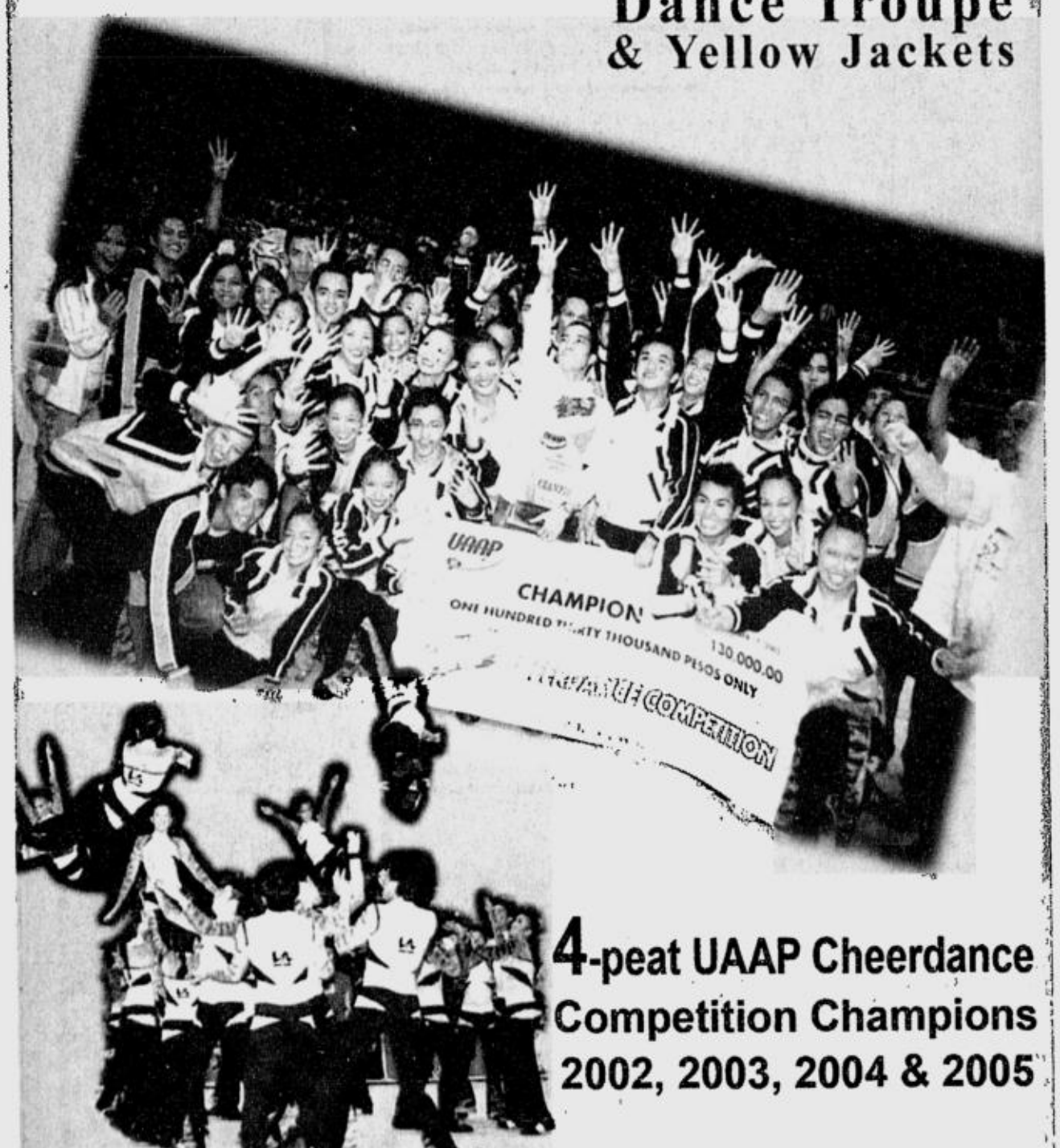

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Bacchus/Harbour spills Taguig in NBC cagefest

TAGUIG CITY—BACCHUS/HARBOUR CENtre continued its amazing run of shocking triumphs in the 2005 Panasonic-NBC national basketball championship Friday night by whipping defending North Conference champion Forward Taguig, 77-68, at the start of their best-of-three semifinal series here.

After being limited to only nine points in the second period, Bacchus/Harbour exploded for 47 points in the second half to move within a win of clinching the division title.

Slotman Allan Gamboa scored back-to-back triples while Nani Epondulan and Fil-Am guard Francis Rauschmayer added one each as Bacchus/Harbour surged ahead, 64-63, after trailing 52-54 at the start of the payoff period.

"It's great to have a streak, especially in the playoffs. Our slump in the classification round is a thing of the past and we're hoping to go all the way to the NBC finals," said Bacchus/Harbour coach Lawrence Chongson.

Bachhus/Harbour's triumph came after they had swept favored Parañaque Jets in the quarterfinals of the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Sunbolt Sports Drink, Accel, Molten, Nature's Spring, Far Eastern Insurance, Skygo, Sirlitz, Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, KSK Food Products, Bayview Park Hotel and Holiday Plaza-Cebu.

The Iligan Crusaders and Valencia Golden Harvest try to wrap up today their respective series against Ozamiz and Mantawi, respectively.

The scores:

BACCHUS 77—Gamboa 15, Epondulan 15, Rauschmayer 12, Reroma 10, Sta. Cruz 9, Hardin 8, Coyukang 4, Cordero 2, Hudencial 2, Enrile 0, Chua 0

TAGUIG 68—Vilar 24, Zablan 11, Marucot 10, Dela Rosa 9, Reguerra 5, De Castro 4, Aclon 3, Robillos 2, Dulay 0, Magsambol 0, Gonzales 9, Lapinid 0

Quarters: 21-17, 30-39, 52-54, 77-68.

STI nips St. Clare, gains Naascu finals

STI COMPLETED ITS MASTERY OF FAVORED St. Clare with a 64-57 victory yesterday to reach the men's basketball finals of the National Athletic Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (Naascu) at the UM gym.

The Olympians laid out an unforgiving full-court press to wipe out a 57-51 St. Clare lead in the final two minutes and 45 seconds while scoring 13 unanswered points to pull off the come-from-behind win.

St. Clare not only failed to exploit its twice-to-beat advantage in its semifinal series against STI, but the Saints also failed to live up to high expectations following their monumental conquest of the University of Manila Hawks late in the eliminations.

The Olympians will take on the Hawks in the best-of-three finals starting tomorrow at the Cuneta Astrodome. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

The scores:

STI 64—Belano 15, Micutuan 14, Mabayo 13, Wong 9, Dia 5, Stapley 4, Ebuengga 4, Legaspi 0-, Lunar 0, Botin 0.

ST. CLARE 57—Songco 20, San Pedro 11, Geraldino 7, Badley 6, Diaz 5, Rivera 3, Siruma 2, Manas 2, Gali 1.

Quarters: 17-14, 30-all, 43-42, 64-57.

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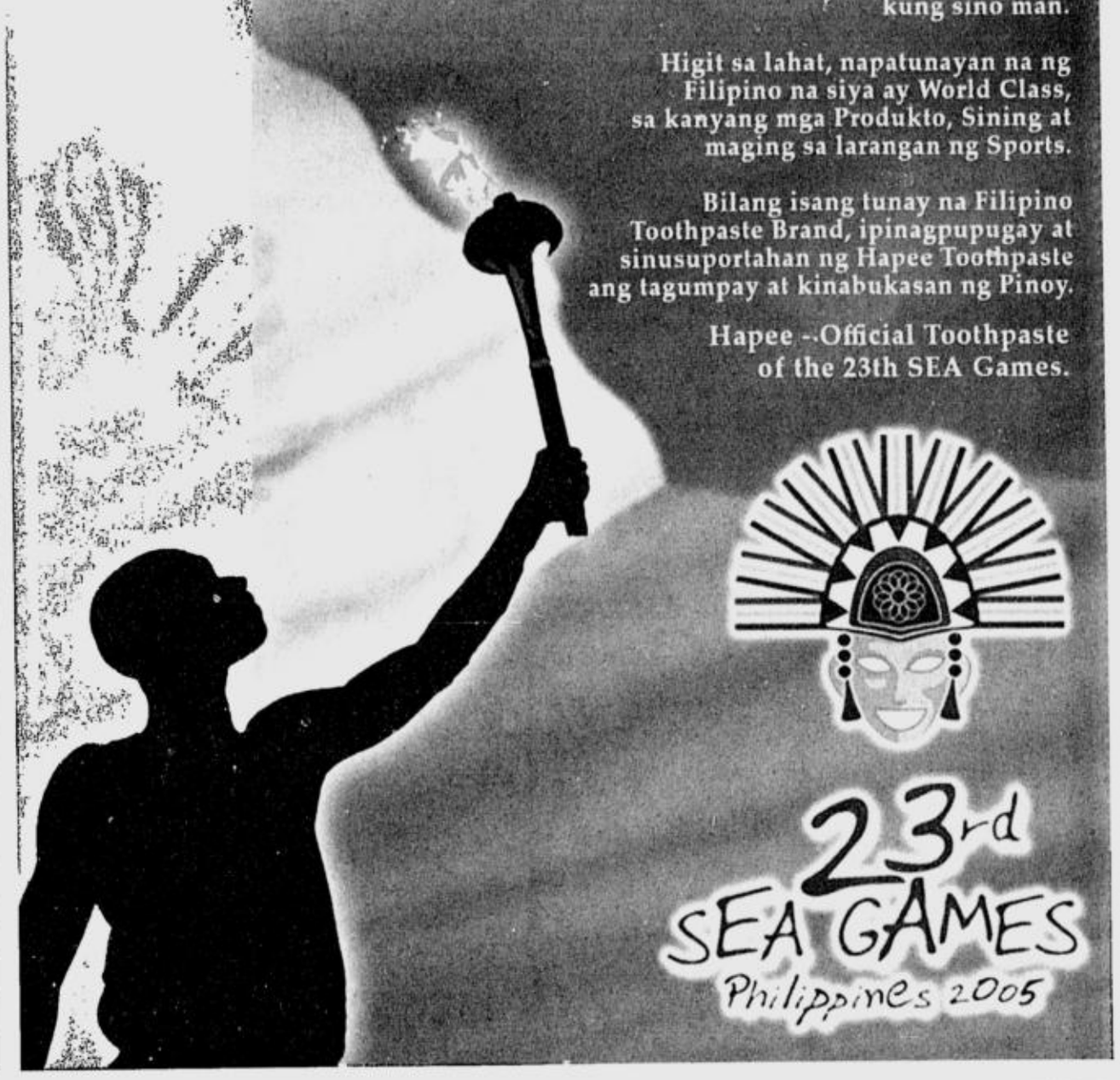

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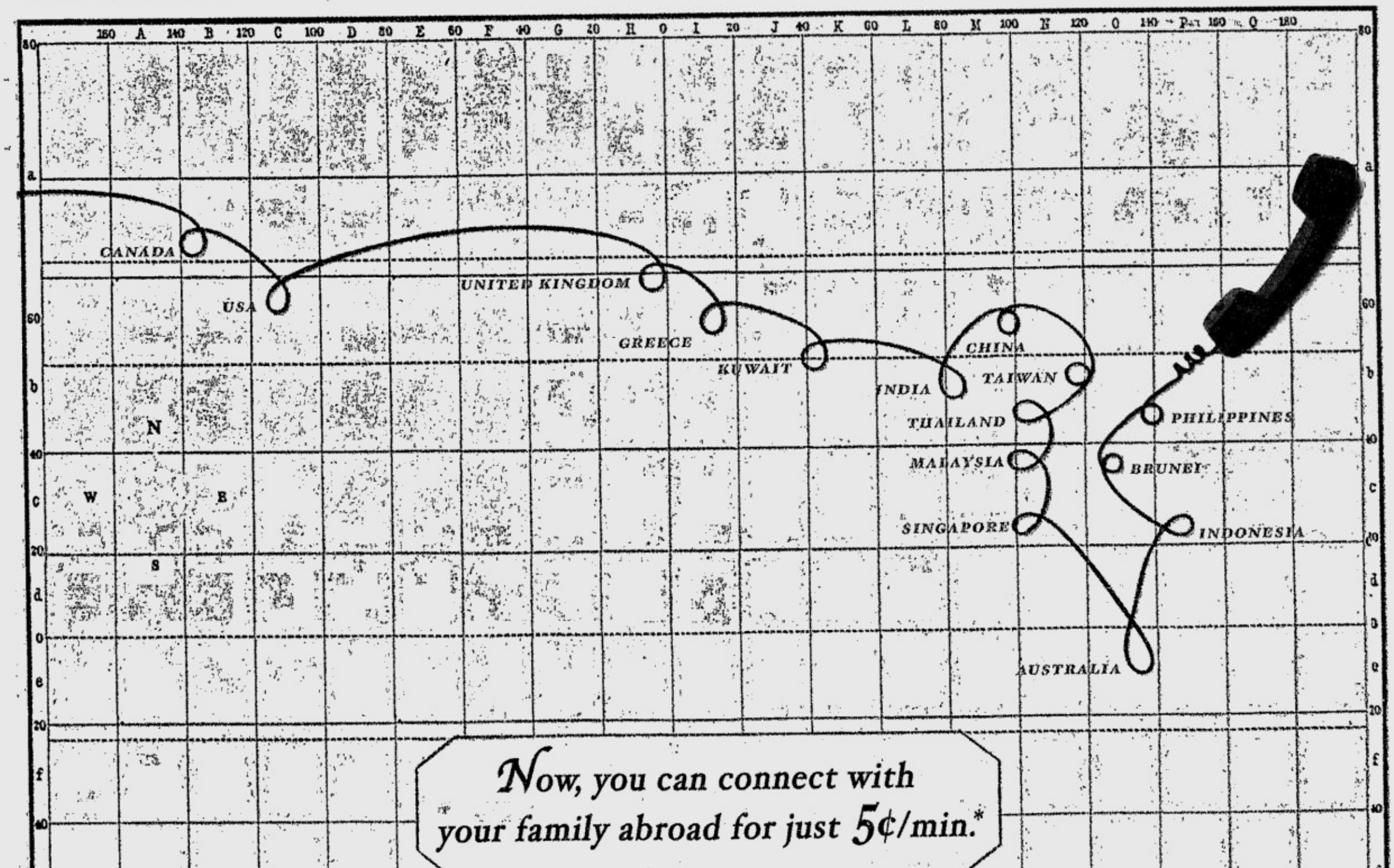
Philippines 2005



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08:35LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END

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09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:30END

2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24
09:11LFS/09:30LMF/11:20END

3 CINDERELLA MAN
10:40FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50
09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

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1 SM PREMIERE CINEMA LAUNCH PARTY
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3 THE CAVE
4 PERFECT CATCH
5 BROTHERS GRIMM
6 LAND OF THE DEAD
7 RED EYE
8 DARK WATER
9 SOUND OF THUNDER
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
11 LOVESTRUCK
12 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 LAND OF THE DEAD
5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
6 BLADE OF THE ROSE
7 DARK WATER
8 LOVESTRUCK
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 BROTHERS GRIMM
11 THE CAVE
12 RED EYE

SM NORTH EDSA
1 DARK WATER
2 BROTHERS GRIMM
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CONSTANT GARDENER
5 LAND OF THE DEAD
6 SOUND OF THUNDER
7 PERFECT CATCH
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE

SM CITY MANILA
1 THE CAVE
2 CONSTANT GARDENER
3 PERFECT CATCH
4 BROTHERS GRIMM
5 LAZARUS CHILD
6 A SOUND OF THUNDER
7 LONG WEEKEND
8 BLADE OF THE ROSE
9 LOVESTRUCK
10 THE CROW 4:I WICKED PRAYER
11 LAND OF THE DEAD
12 DARK WATER

SM CITY STA MESA
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 A SOUND OF THUNDER
3 DARK WATER
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 BLADE OF THE ROSE
6 THE CAVE
7 BROTHERS GRIMM
8 CONSTANT GARDENER
9 PERFECT CATCH
10 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
4 DARK WATER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 CONSTANT GARDENER
7 A SOUND OF THUNDER
8 BROTHERS GRIMM
9 THE CAVE
10 CINDERELLA MAN

SM SAN LAZARO
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 DARK WATER
3 BROTHERS GRIMM
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
5 PERFECT CATCH
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 A SOUND OF THUNDER

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 LAND OF THE DEAD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE CROW 4: WICKED PRAYER
4 DARK WATER

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 LONG WEEKEND
4 RED EYE
5 LONGEST YARD
6 LOVESTRUCK

SM CITY BACOOR
1 RED EYE
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LAND OF THE DEAD
4 DARK WATER
5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
6 LOVESTRUCK
7 THE CAVE
8 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 A SOUND OF THUNDER
2 LONG WEEKEND
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 CINDERELLAMAN

SM CITY LUCENA
1 SKY HIGH
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 RED EYE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY MARILAO
1 LONG WEEKEND
2 CINDERELLA MAN
3 LOVESTRUCK
4 RED EYE

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 RED EYE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LONGEST YARD
4 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BROTHERS GRIMM
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 CINDERELLA MAN
4 VALIANT
5 LOVESTRUCK
6 SKY HIGH
7 A SOUND OF THUNDER
8 LONGEST YARD

SM CITY ILOILO
1 LONGEST YARD
2 RESERVED
3 ICE PRINCESS
4 LOVESTRUCK
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE CAVE
7 RESERVED
8 RED EYE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 THE CAVE
2 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
3 SKY HIGH
4 RED EYE
5 CINDERELLA MAN
6 BROTHERS GRIMM

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE CAVE
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 SKY HIGH
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD

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SHANG CINEPLEX

1 CINE EUROPA 8
4:00, 7:00, 10:00 LMF

2 LAND OF THE DEAD
MTRCB R-13
12:40 3:00 5:20LMF

3 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
MTRCB PG-13
1:25, 4:00, 6:35, 9:10 LMF

4 PERFECT CATCH
MTRCB GP
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE DARK WATER
MTRCB PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00 LMF

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September 23:
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4:00pm Villa des Roses
7:00pm Buttoners
10:00pm Dog Nail Clipper

September 24:
1:00pm The Spanish Apartment
4:00pm Kroko
7:00pm I Love to Love
10:00pm A Man Not Wanted

September 25:
1:00pm Twinni
4:00pm Millions
7:00pm Extranjeras
10:00pm Faithless

September 26:
4:00pm Twinni
7:00pm Step by Step
10:00pm Villa des Roses

September 27:
4:00pm Buttoners
7:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
10:00pm The Spanish Apartment

September 28:
4:00pm A Man Not Wanted
7:00pm Dying To Go Home
10:00pm Kroko

September 29:
1:00pm I Love to Love
4:00pm Faithless
7:00pm A Man Not Wanted
10:00pm Extranjeras

September 30:
1:00pm Villa Des Roses
4:00pm Step by Step
7:00pm The Spanish Apartment
10:00pm Buttoners

October 1:
1:00pm Extranjeras
4:00pm Dying To Go Home
7:00pm Kroko
10:00pm I Love to Love

October 2:
1:00pm Millions
4:00pm Dog Nail Clipper
7:00pm Faithless
10:00pm Dying To Go Home

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PERFECT CATCH
12:50 / 3:30 / 6:10 / 8:50

LAND OF THE DEAD
1:20 / 3:20 / 5:20 / 7:20 / 9:20

DARK WATER
12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30

CONSTANT GARDENER
1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00

BLADE OF THE ROSE
1:45 / 4:20 / 6:55 / 9:30

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
PERFECT CATCH 1:20 / 4:00 / 6:40 / 9:20

CINDERELLA MAN
12:50 / 3:40 / 6:30 / 9:20

THE BROS. GRIMM
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

RED EYE
12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

LOVESTRUCK
1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 DARK WATER
12:25 R3 / 1:55 / 4:05 / 6:15 / 8:25

2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35

3 LAND OF THE DEAD
12:20 / 2:20 / 4:20 / 6:20 / 8:20

4 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30

5 LOVESTRUCK
12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50

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Sep 29 Thursday UAAP FINAL FOUR If nec. OR UAAP GAME 1 FINALS

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US ties ...

Woods, Furyk p...

GAINESVILLE, VIRGINIA—TWO years later and halfway across the world, the Presidents Cup is as close as ever.

Chris DiMarco came up aces, Tiger Woods and Jim Furyk came through with clutch comebacks and Retief Goosen and Adam Scott proved as formidable as ever Saturday, all of them turning in solid performances that left the matches tied going into a final round of 12 singles matches.

Each team had 11 points, the first time the Presidents Cup has been tied going into Sunday since it began in 1994

"I think tomorrow is a toss-up," Phil Mickelson said. "The International team is very strong, 12 of the best players in the game. They are extremely tough and are playing some extremely good golf. I feel the American team is playing exceptional golf, as well. I have faith in my team."

The Americans had a chance to take the outright lead in the final better-ball match of the afternoon.

Fred Couples, who has provided some of the most dramatic images from Robert Trent Jones Golf Club, hit a wedge into eight feet on the 18th hole and was poised to score a 1-up win. But his putt stayed above the cup as he and Davis Love III had to settle for a halve with Michael Campbell and Angel Cabrera.

No one had to work harder than Woods and Furyk, who birdied the last two holes in alternate shot Saturday morning to earn a halve against Fiji's Vijay Singh and Stuart Appleby of Austr... distance against ... noon. It was jus... tense as Furyk ca... kept the America...

Woods finally ... an 18-foot birdie ... that barely caug... the cup for a 1-u... hit a wedge into ... the last hole, bu... the putt.

"I didn't reall... much except ... read puts and ha... the pompon... out," Woods sai... "Finally, I was al... help him out o... made a putt then...

DiMarco and ... so dominant that ... matches Saturda... 16th hole.

The Internati... more strong pl... and Goosen, wh... Verplank and Jus... a draw in the ... buried them in ... match with 10 ... holes.

As close as ... these matches ... have been, the ... Americans migh... on their side. T... lost at RTJ, and ... lost a singles sess... President Cup m...

The only othe... were this close ... the Americans ...

All set for Fores...

EXPECT ANOTHER FUN-FILLED, friendly yet serious competition when the fifth Chairman's Cup fires off this Thursday, Sept. 29, at the challenging Forest Hills Golf Club in Antipolo City.

More than 400 players—composed of members, guests, and sponsors—will battle for the individual championships in the three-day tournament that has corporate partners Golfore... lular as presenter...

The participan... ing handsome ... namely a hundr... and brand new g... Nike and Wilson...

New Life Pla... Center, Fury ... Foodlink, Citiba... come in as maj...

Alonso t...

SAO PAULO, BRAZIL—F... Alonso took pole position f... Brazilian Grand Prix, imp... chances of a podium finish ... make him Formula One ... champion.

Renault's Alonso did ...

Paulino leads Su...

SUBIC—Crissabelle Paulin... 12-under division to qualify ... nior Tennis Cup here at the ... Vice Mayor Rollen Paulino, ... with Jurrence Mendoza in t... under, Roman Floreza in the ... der class. Mendoza tripped ... Rivero 6-1, 6-1; Floreza blan... Rivero 6-1, 6-1 in the Milo n... the Olongapo Tennis Club.

Shell chess final...

THE CHASE for berths to th... Chess Championships ends ... tionwide series unfolds at t... going, according to the orga... registration fee pegged at P... event, ending Oct. 2, will fea... low, and the kiddies, exclus... kiddies champions will get ... area coordinator Lynde Sal...

Sorolla bags WB...

BENJIE Sorolla took the Wo... crown after a unanimous de... at the New San Andres Civic ... WBO Asia Pacific co-chairm... was an exciting affair that h... Judge Edwin Sese saw it 11 ... Perez penned it 115-114 all ...

Cockfights back...

COCKFIGHTING action retu... cock Breeders Association ... gathering of more than 150 ... ing the event are sponsors ... cialists, Thunderbird Enerto... determine the 2005 Breeder ... Rep. Peping Cojuangco, Ro... la, Jun Sevilla, Dong Chung ... more details, please call the ...

PCAP 5-stag de...

BOXER Manny Pacquiao he... (PCAP) 5-stag derby today ... well-known cockers, includ... Cojuangco are expected to s... Gaming Corp. will host the ... 19, 21, 26 and 28. The cock... Also at stake is a brand new ... talls, contact 8963545 and 8...

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it all up

ower Americans

lia; then went the hem in the after- t as tight, just as rried the load and is in the match. delivered, making on the 16th hole t the left edge of lead. Appleby 10 feet on missed

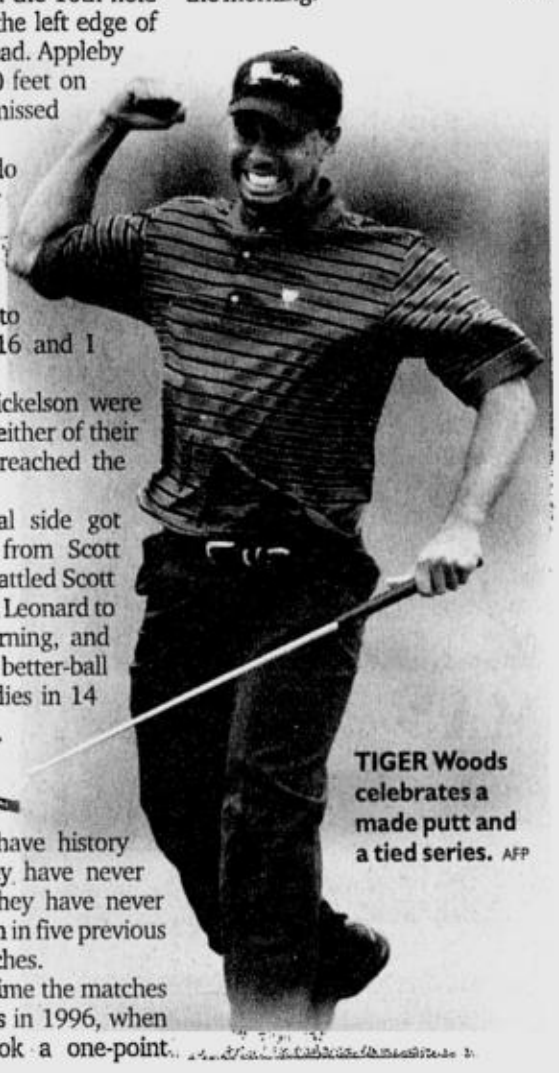
do for e s l.. le to 16 and 1 ." Mickelson were neither of their y reached the

nal side got y from Scott battled Scott in Leonard to orning, and a better-ball rdies in 14

have history ey have never they have never on in five previous tches. time the matches as in 1996, when ook a one-point

lead in the final day and split the singles to win the cup.

The Americans started the day trailing by one point, but pulled even by winning three points from the five alternate-shot matches in the morning. *AP*



TIGER Woods celebrates a made putt and a tied series. AFP

st Hills tourney

Inc. and Sun Cel- s. ts will also be eye- ole-in-one prizes d thousand cash lf sets courtesy of tić and Aesthetic Active Eyewear, k and Turf Co. r sponsors of the

Chairman's Cup of Forest Hills, winner of the coveted Federation of Golf Clubs League championship two weeks ago.

Fila Watches, Gerry's Grill, Globe Telecom, Gruppo Armani, Group Management Dev't., Heinz-UFC, Megaprimus Consumer Products, MRT Corp., Primepower Manpower, and Taisho Hizon Manufacturing-Lipovitan are the other backers.

akes Brazil pole

ERNANDO r Sunday's roving his hat would youngest

1 minute,

11.988 seconds in Saturday's qualifying on the 4.309-kilometer (2.678-mile) Interlagos circuit.

Kimi Raikkonen—winner of three of the past four races and the only driver who can stop Alonso winning the title—was just fifth. *AP*

SPORTSWATCH

bic Cup winners

whipped twin sister Cristabelle, 6-3, 6-0, in the girls' or the National Finals in October of the 2005 Milo Ju- nternational Tennis Center. Crissabelle, daughter of tayed on course for the Malaysia grand prize together e unisex 10-under, Jose Lorenzo Ferrer in the boys' 12- boys' 14-under, and Zhane Quitara in the girls' 14-un- nrique Ferrer 7-5, 6-2; Jose Lorenzo routed Angelo ked JV Guevarra 6-0, 6-0; and Quitara downed Mary ettest organized by CTW and supported by Adidas and

elims set Oct. 1

national finals of the 2005 Shell National Youth Active this Saturday when the final leg of the eight-stage na- e Lim Ketkai Mall in Cagayan de Oro City. Listing is on- nizing company Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., with 0 on a first-come, first-served basis. The two-day ure the junior division for players 20 years old and be- ely for players 14 years and under. The juniors and 5,000 and P4,000, respectively. For details, contact idos at (088) 8585384.

O Aspac minifly title

ld Boxing Organization's Asia Pacific miniflyweight ision win over Thailand's Saengpetch Sor Sakulphan and Sports Center Saturday night. Leon Panoncillo, n who was at ringside to supervise the bout, said it d the crowd loving every bit of the 12-round action. -111, while Tony Comia had it 115-113 and Rudy or the Marty Elorde-promoted Sorolla.

at Big Dome

s to the Araneta Coliseum today via the Luzon Game- GBA) 7--Stag Derby. The first of 110 fights in this amefowl breeders of Luzon starts at 1 p.m. Support- ikpue Drug Inc., Robichem, Excellence Gamefowl Spe- e and Vitarich Panabong. Three derbies will be held to of the Year. Among those seeking the title are former y Tan, Biboy Enriquez, Bobby del Rosario, Boy Gamil- Marcel Julao, LGBA president Boy Diaz and others. For GBA office at 9267808, 924072 and 0920-5851940.

rby up

dlines the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines t the Makati Coliseum. The derby starts at 5 p.m. Other g San Miguel chief and former ambassador Danding ow up. Meanwhile, the WTJ Sports and Amusement amaskong Salpukan 6-Cock Derby" on Dec. 12, 14, 17, est offers a whopping guaranteed prize of P3 million. oyota Innova. Entry fee is only P11,000. For other de- 956475.

Sox, Yankees even as Toronto cools off NY

NEW YORK—SHEA HILLENBRAND AND Eric Hinske both drove in a pair of runs as the Toronto Blue Jays cooled off the streaking New York Yankees with a 7-4 win in American League play Saturday at Yankee Stadium.

The loss was just the second in the last 13 games for the Yankees and ended a five-game winning streak, as New York slipped back into a tie for first place in the AL East with the Boston Red Sox, who won at Baltimore.

Yankees hard-luck starter Jaret Wright was hit by a line drive in the first inning and wound up leaving the game without getting an out in the second, as Toronto scored four runs in the first and three more in the second.

Wright was drilled in the chest by a liner off the bat of Gregg Zaun in the first inning, marking the third game in the past five where he's been hit by either a ball or bat while on the mound.

"You try to prepare, mentally, when things like that happen, to clear them out of your head and get a couple of starts under your belt that go OK," Wright said.

"When it keeps happening, it's definitely frustrating."

Hideki Matsui and Robinson Cano both made costly errors for the Yankees in the early going that led to four of the seven runs being unearned, as the Yankees lost their lead in the division which they are trying to win for the eighth straight year.

"Now's not the time to worry about this loss, because we have to come back tomorrow," Derek Jeter said.

In Baltimore, Kevin Millar drove in two runs as the Boston Red Sox beat the Orioles, 4-3, to pull into a tie with the Yankees for first place in the AL East.

Jonathan Papelbon (2-1) pitched one inning, allowing a hit and striking out one for the win. Mike Timlin pitched one inning for his 11th save. *Reuters*

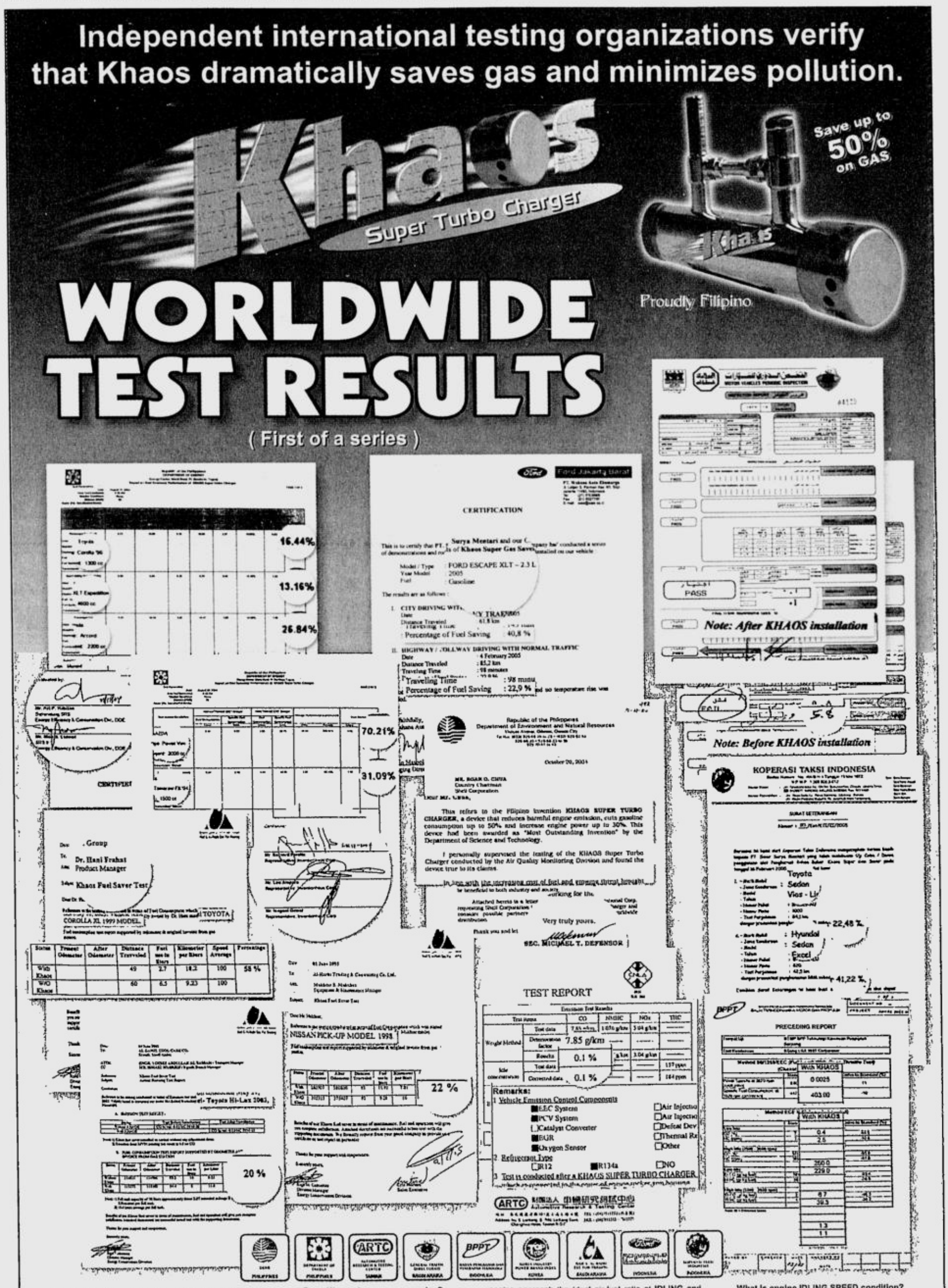
Leading corporations initiate fuel conservation

The unending oil crisis played a big factor in the decision-making for most of the Filipino motorists to initiate in helping stablilize our economic status by using gas-saving gadgets. Even government agencies and private companies felt the need to utilize gas-saving gadgets for it will be cost beneficial and cost effective for them.

The urge for gas-savings is one common denominator. Inventionhaus, manufacturer and distributor of KHAOS Super Turbo Charger, a revolutionary breakthrough gas-saving device claims that as the industry leader in air bleed technology, their patrons have witnessed first hand the value added features of their gadget in terms of 99.9% fuel burning efficiency, translating into 15 to 50% gas savings, zero level emissions, and optimum level engine efficiency.

Many of their satisfied customers are heavy users, including those into sales, marketing, construction, site visitations, account management and rentals. Companies such as Nestle Philippines, Golden Arches Philippines-Mc Donald's, ABS-CBN, LBC, International Wines and Spirits, Moldex Group of Companies, SC Johnson, Kodak Philippines, Air 21, International Exchange Bank, China Bank, P.J. Lhuillier, Rombe Phils., Philippine Tourism Authority, IPM Construction, Design Coordinates and Manila Cordage use this product.

The economic stability in terms of oil pricing is a major concern of our society, which has to be taken seriously. By supporting and taking full advantage of this gas-saving technology, it will be in line with our commitment to help save the environment and provide great customer satisfaction.



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1 CINDERELLA MAN • THX
1:20 4:10 7:00 9:50

2 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

3 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

4 WILD SIDE
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 DARK WATER
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
2:15 4:50 7:25 10:00

7 RED EYE
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

8 LAND OF THE DEAD
1:05 3:15 5:25 7:35 9:45

9 A SOUND OF THUNDER
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

10 LOVESTRUCK
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 LAND OF THE DEAD
10:10 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

2 BLADE OF THE ROSE
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

3 THE PERFECT CATCH
12:35 2:50 5:05 7:25 9:50

4 LOVESTRUCK
10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
10:45 1:30 4:15 7:00 9:50

6 DARK WATER
10:30 12:25 4:15 6:10 8:00 9:50

7 A SOUND OF THUNDER 10:20 12:35 2:50
THE BROTHERS GRIMM 5:00 7:30 10:00

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1 CINDERELLA MAN
12:45 3:30 6:15 9:00

2 THE CROW 4
12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00

3 DARK WATER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

4 LAND OF THE DEAD
11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

5 A SOUND OF THUNDER
1:20 3:55 6:30 9:05

6 THE PERFECT CATCH
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

7 THE CONSTANT GARDENER
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

8 LOVESTRUCK
1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

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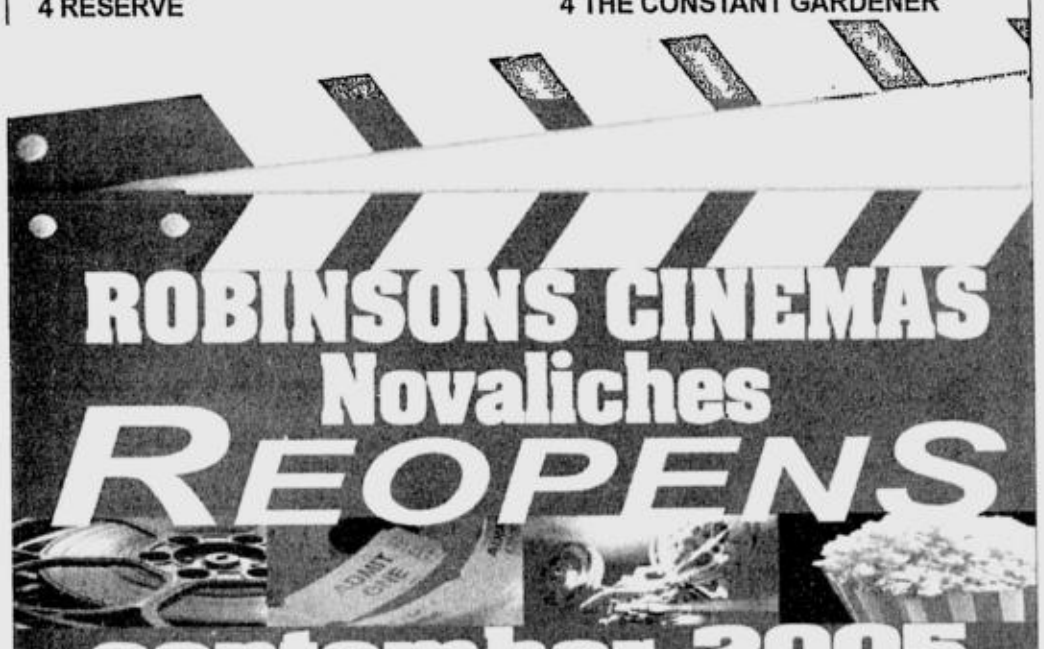
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 RESERVE

1 DARK WATER
2 LAND OF THE DEAD
3 THE PERFECT CATCH
4 THE CONSTANT GARDENER



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1 THE LONGEST YARD
2 LOVESTRUCK
3 LISENSYADONG KAMAO
4 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD

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5 THE CAVE
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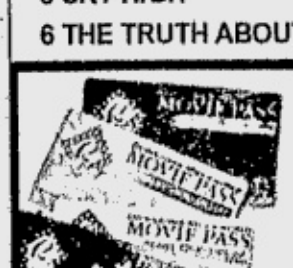
2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 SKY HIGH
6 THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

1 RED EYE
2 THE CAVE
3 THE LONGEST YARD
4 SKY HIGH



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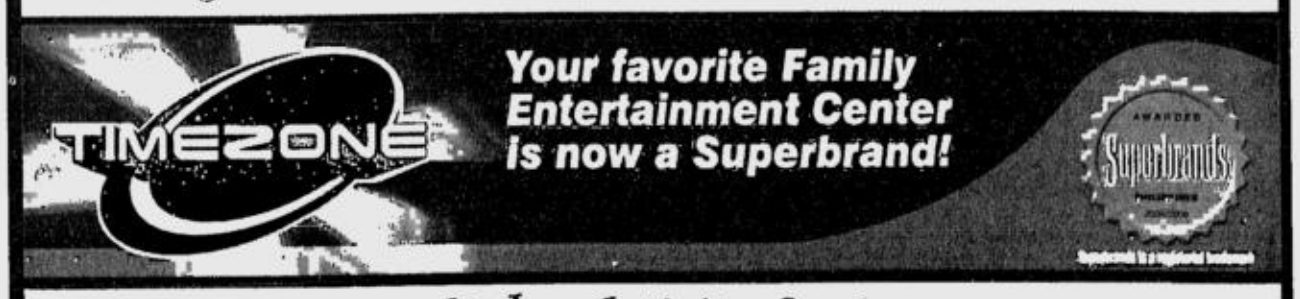

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 DARK WATER	3 BLADE OF THE ROSE	4 LAND OF THE DEAD
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 PERFECT CATCH	2 DARK WATER	3 THX RED EYE 12:30, 2:30, 4:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 CONSTANT GARDENER	5 THE BROTHERS GRIMM	6 CINDERELLA MAN	7 DARK WATER
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 PERFECT CATCH 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45		2 A SOUND OF THUNDER 1:00, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00, 9:00	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX PERFECT CATCH 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX LAND OF THE DEAD 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 CINDERELLA MAN 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 DARK WATER 2:00, 4:15, 6:30, 8:45, 11:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 CONSTANT GARDENER 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX DARK WATER		2 PERFECT CATCH	
	3 LAND OF THE DEAD	4 CINDERELLA MAN	5 CONSTANT GARDENER	
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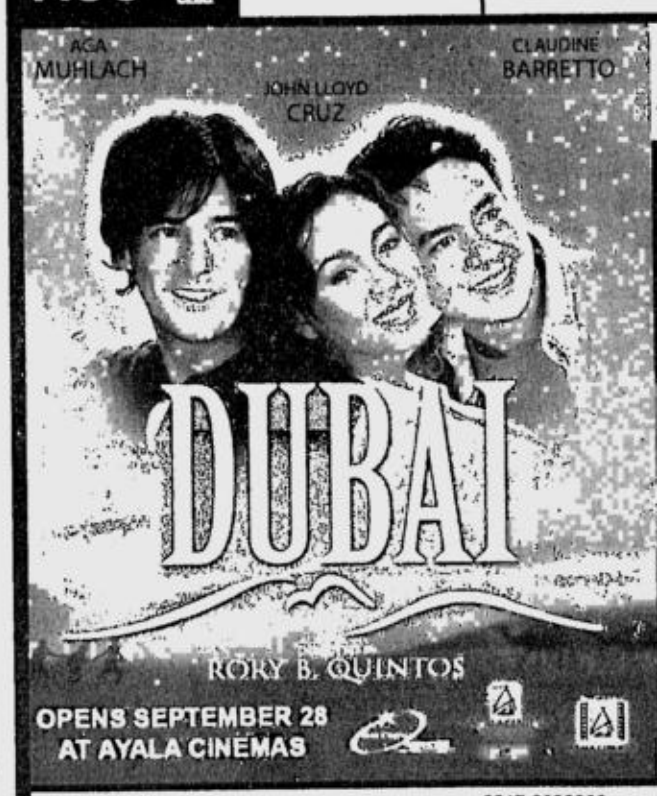

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Centro, QCSC shuttlers grab North berths

CENTRO ATLETICO AND QUEZON CITY Sports Club lived up to their top billing by clinching the two slots disputed in the North eliminations leg of the Battle of the Courts: National Inter-Club Badminton Cup Year 2 at the Club 650 courts in Libis.

Centro Atletico first disposed of host Club 650 in the quarterfinals, secured a finals berth by whipping Star Smash in the semifinals before coming from a loss in the ladies doubles to beat QCSC for the leg title.

QCSC opened the day by beating Celebrity Sports in the quarterfinals then banked on the husband-and-wife tandem of Cathy and Gerald Tiu to turn back Hemady, 2-1, in the Final Four of the tourney presented by Mizuno, Smart: Simply Amazing and INQUIRER Badminton.

The top two teams automatically advance to the grand finals slated in November together with qualifiers from six other legs held in various parts of the country.

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8:40, 11:00
PG-13

2 PERFECT CATCH
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
GP

3 DARK WATER
1:05, 3:35, 6:05
8:35, 11:00
PG-13

4 CONSTANT GARDENER
11:40, 2:25, 5:10
7:55, 10:40
PG-13

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1	2	3
LAND OF THE DEAD R13 1:10,3:20,5:30,7:40,9:50	CONSTANT GARDENER PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15	DARK WATER PG13 1:35,3:45,5:55,8:05,10:15
CINDERELLA MAN PG13 12:45,3:45,6:45,9:45	BLADE OF THE ROSE PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:25	PERFECT CATCH GP 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15,10:25

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Amang, Alex in key duel

NEW YORK—FILipinos Jose "Amang" Parica and

Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan posted back-to-back wins Saturday night to arrange a showdown in the winner's bracket of the 30th Annual US Open 9-Ball Billiards Championships at the Chesapeake Conference Center in Virginia.

The 56-year-old Parica downed Englishmen Nick Van Den Berg, 11-7, and Charlie "The Dragon" Williams, 11-9, while Pagulayan turned back Troy Frank, 11-7, and Tang Hoa, 11-6.

Parica had earlier beaten Efren "Bata" Reyes while Pagulayan had slipped past Francisco "Django" Bustamante with similar 11-9 victories Friday.

Bustamante bounced back by demolishing Mika Immonen, Johnny Archer (11-8), Andreas Roshkowski, Troy Frank (11-6) and Charlie Williams (11-7) but Reyes bowed out after an 11-3 loss to Earl "The Pearl" Strickland.

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is it all too good to be true?
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Adidas race slated Oct. 16

THE ANNUAL ADIDAS KING OF the Road race unfolds on Oct. 16 from the Adidas Sports Kamp at the Bonifacio Global City.

Some 1,900 runners joined the race last year with Eduardo Buenavista (29 minutes 29 seconds) of the national training pool and the Philippine Air Force, and Mercedita Manipol (35:19) topping their respective divisions.

As part of her prize, Manipol went on to represent the Philippines in the Adidas King of the Road Asian Championship held in Seoul, Korea in October also last year, ruling her division.

Buenavista and Manipol are again expected to lead the cast of entries which organizers expect to go beyond 2,000.

Registration is ongoing at the Vasquez Madrigal Plaza Bldg. at No. 51 Annapolis St. in Greenhills, San Juan. Registration fee is P200.

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SPORTS

Dy goes all the way, but Olivarez falters

TOP SEED FILIPINO-AMERICAN DENISE DY emerged the biggest winner even as Filipino Pablo Olivarez II sputtered in the boys' singles final of the Phinma-International Tennis Federation (ITF) Juniors Championship yesterday at the Yñares Socio-Cultural and Sports Center in Pasig City.

Dy blasted second seed Austrian Kathrina Negrin, 7-6 (5), 6-3, to capture the girls' singles title then teamed up with Filipino-Spanish Edilyn Balanga to capture the doubles plum over Taiwanese pair Miao Yuilynn and Lee Anjie, 6-2, 6-2.

It was the third doubles title for Dy after winning in Calcutta, India, last January and in El Salvador last year but the singles title was the first for the 16-year-old, who is currently No. 296 in the ITF World Juniors rankings.

The fifth-ranked Olivarez, who eliminated top seed Australian William McNamee in the quarterfinals, lost steam in the third set and lost to third seed Taiwanese Lee Tung-han, 6-3, 1-6, 6-3.

"I didn't expect to win the title," said Lee, a member of the Junior Davis Cup team. " When I reached the semifinals, I became more confident and that helped me a lot in my final match today."

Lee, a native of Kaoshiung, led 5-1 before winning the first set. Olivarez won the second set in 55 minutes but the Taiwanese took a 5-2 lead in the third set which proved decisive.

"Olivarez is a tough opponent," added Lee, a sophomore at Kaoshiung High School.

Olivarez did not offer any excuse with the 15-year-old high school junior at Olivarez College acknowledging that Lee played a lot better in the finals.

Olivarez, who is scheduled to leave for Spain this afternoon for the Junior Davis Cup competition, and Miguel Lorenzo Narvaez lost to fourth seed Taiwanese pair Chang Chien Ting Lung and Huang Zzu Ming, 5-7, 5-7, in the doubles finals last Saturday.

"It feels great," said the 16-year-old Dy, who will play in the forthcoming SEA Games together with Balanga, Fil-German Anja Vanessa Peter and Czarina Mae Arevalo.

Death leaves boxing on the ropes

THE DEATH OF FORMER IBF lightweight champion Leavander Johnson last Thursday at a hospital in Las Vegas from a severe brain injury he suffered in a fight with Jesus Chavez underscored once more the brutality of pro boxing.

But even though pro boxing is a hazardous sport, it would be futile to abolish it in our contemporary society. It continues to exist and survive because boxing, first and foremost, is a dream come true for many faceless, hard-working fighters who were born in godforsaken poverty.

Two of the country's greatest boxers, the late Flash Elorde and the man of the moment, Manny Pacquiao, had humble beginnings. But they worked harder and sacrificed more than any other Filipino athlete to achieve unprecedented success. Pacquiao, for example, has already earned enough money to fill his pockets for several lifetimes, tasting the kind of fame and fortune few boxers will ever accomplish.

Powerful American promoters Don King and arch rival Bob Arum, who is still very much in the spotlight nowadays, are two major players in recent pro boxing history. Both derive much of their power through their friendships yet "questionable" connections with the bosses of the World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation, three of the more influential and widely known ring organizations.

"For example, once wrote famous American sports journalist Howard Cosell, "if either King or Arum has a fighter he wants to get a shot at a title, or needs as opponent for one of his

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

champions—presto!—the fighter is suddenly ranked in the top 10 of his division to legitimate the match." It was an unholy mess, Cosell stressed. "To be sure, there were gross improprieties."

In my view, pro boxing is sick for the following reasons: one, the huge financial inducements offered by sleazy promoters (like Murad Muhammad?), two, the overwhelming support given by the vast majority of the media members who are apologists for boxing, and three, the television networks that tolerate the continued existence of ring organizations such as the WBC, WBA and IBF which exist only for the purpose of creating championship fights which the networks can sell for big money.

Pro boxing is on the ropes in the Philippines. The Games and Amusements Board is aware that nowadays there are few fighters in the mold of Pacquiao who can fill the stadium to capacity. Gone were the SRO (standing room only) days of Pancho Villa, Ceferino Garcia, Dado Marino, Tirso del Rosario, Speed Cabanela, Bonnie Espinosa, Little Cesar, Dommy Ursua, Flash Elorde, Rene Barrientos, Ben Villaflor, Roberto Cruz, Pedro Adigue, Bernabe Villacampo, Erbito Salavarria, Frank Cedeño, Luisito Espinosa, Dodie Boy and Gerry Peñalosa, and "The Bad Boy of Dadiangas" himself, Rolando Navarrete, among other crowd drawers.

Too many people have been paying lip service to help save the ailing boxing industry, but hardly anybody has been making a substantial progress. More's the pity when one goes over the long list of boxers who had died in recent years, namely, Marnel Zayas, Andy Balaba, Restituto Espenili, Mauro Saucelo, Macky Siluano, Eugen Barutag, John Eman Juarez and Freddie "Amang" Gimay.

***

FIREBIRD SIZZLES. I am happy for an esteemed friend, hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez, whom I have not seen in years, for winning the recent NCA 7-Stag Derby at the Makati Coliseum. Congratulations!

Enriquez and partner Rep. Jing Paras emerged solo champion when their fast and fearless McKinley Firebird entries scored six wins against one loss.

Soft-spoken and approachable, Biboy is a perennial winner in big-time derbies, including the World Slasher Cup, because of his serious dedication and passion for the sport, honesty and Christian charity . . . PBA SHINDIG. The Philippine Basketball Association will be holding its pre-season press launch tomorrow at the Manila Diamond Hotel . . . READERS WRITE. My longtime *suki* Paul Mortel of Marikina City wrote: "You're one of the few media people who's informing our folks about the near-extinct tamaraws of Mindoro. To paraphrase Rep. Edmund Reyes during the impeachment period, *"Wala na bang iba?"*

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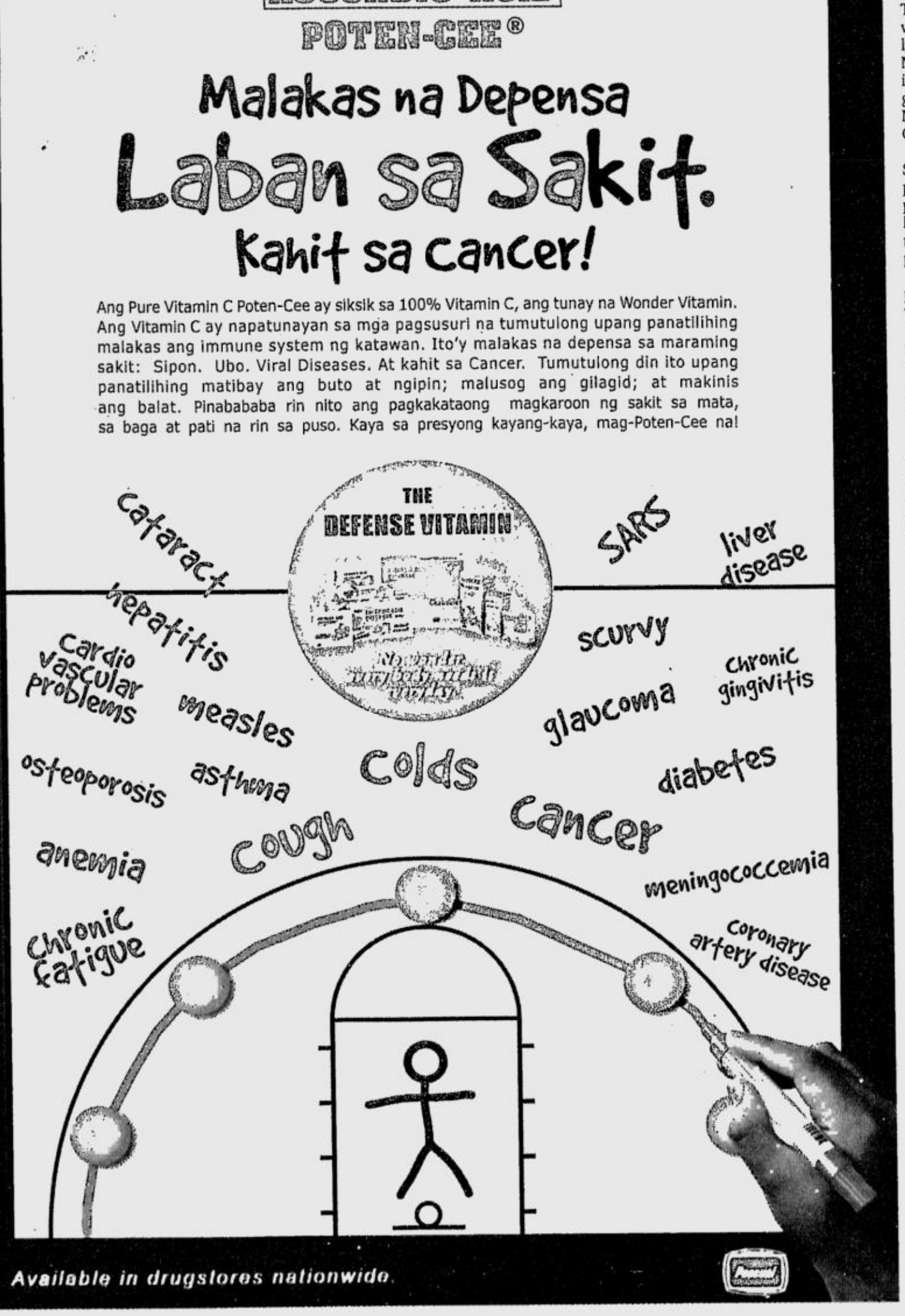

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Asistio, Tabuena shine in Samsung Jungolf

TONTON ASISTIO SHOWED HE was still a cut above the rest by easily ruling Class A yesterday while Miguel Tabuena made a big impact in his return to the Samsung Jungolf Tour school season series at the Mt. Malarayat Golf and Country Club course in Lipa, Batangas.

Asistio, a member of the Manila Southwoods team, was the only player to break par with his impressive one-under-par 71 giving him a 10-shot win over Junro Mamaril in the division confined to players 15-17 years old.

Tabuena, meanwhile, decided to play in a higher division and still won it.

Playing his first local tournament since an active campaign in international events, the 10-year-old Tabuena scored a 78 to beat Bino dela Paz (80) and Remo Fueg (84) for the Class C (11-12) crown.

Completing the winners' roster for boys were Moshi Baldo in Class B, Daniel Ekegren in Class D, Kiefer Ramirez in Class E and Lanz Uy in Class F. Girls champions were Bambee dela Paz, Regine de Guzman, Maan Legaspi, Ann Sabater and Ahn Si Eun.

Noticeably missing was Wolen Superal, the reigning Junior World champion for the 11-12 years age-group. He recently underwent a hip operation and will be out for at least six months.

Baldo (76) beat Rocco Sumabat

ASISTIO PDI PHOTO

and Marcel Puyat by five, Ekegren's 96 won him the title by a stroke over Gabriel Mendoza, Ramirez (79) was a six-stroke winner over Ivan Monsalve and Uy topped his division also by six strokes over Ryan Monsalve after a 72.

Dela Paz (88) beat Frances Bawal (91) in Class A, De Guzman (77) wound up six shots ahead of Cyna Rodriguez in Class B, Legaspi topped Class C with an 80, Sabater's 106 was two strokes better than Marvi Monsalve's 108 in Class D and Ahn (74) won Class E by seven over Janella Buen.

The Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines and Samsung are holding school season events to help the kids maintain their competitive form. Most of them will be playing the Samsung Interscholastics at Valley this week.

Manila's Gem captures Juvenile Colts 2nd leg

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

THERE WAS NO SMILE FOR MANIla at the Santa Ana Park yesterday. Instead, it was the gem which triumphed and glittered like gold.

Manila's Gem outkicked top choice Dixie the Younger down the wire to win the second leg of the 2005 Philracom Juvenile Colts Series in a giant-sized upset at the Makati racetrack.

The Jesse Guce-ridden galloper took the lead from the outset, yielded it nearing the far turn but bravely fought back to foil the Trillana Stable's bid for a second consecutive victory in the annual contest among 2-year-old horses.

Manila's Gem, sired by Manila's Finest out of Lady Ping, won by a neck over the Fernando Raquel Jr.-steered Dixie the Younger who was sent away as the heavy favorite due to his impressive conquest of the opening leg last month.

Taking advantage of being boxed at stall No. 1, Manila's Gem blasted off like a bullet but Million Dollar pressed early on, while Dixie the Younger was forced to work his way up from the outside just behind Don Exequiel.

The other "Manila" in the 1,500-meter contest, first-leg runner-up Manila's Smile, was hampered by traffic in the early going and was never in the hunt.

Million Dollar vaulted ahead just as the field approached the far turn but Manila's Gem did not crack, and plowed back into the fray just as Dixie the Younger loomed large on the outside.

Million Dollar wound up third, followed by Manila's Smile, Don Exequiel and Manhattan. Golden Number was scratched.

Manila's Gem, a far third choice in the betting which Guce opted to ride in favor of Don Exequiel, clocked 1:34.4 (17.5-24-24-29).

Earlier, 2-year-old filly Juggernaut won the sweepstakes maiden event.

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ROUNDUP

In my villa?

WASHINGTON—If Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are planning to get married at George Clooney's villa in Italy, it's news to him.

"People have said they were going to get married at my house," Clooney told AP Radio in a recent interview. "Well, I would know, and I can tell you there's not going to be a secret wedding."

While magazines have published numerous photos of the couple together, neither has confirmed they are dating—and Clooney wouldn't either.

"I don't speak of my own personal life," the 44-year-old actor said. "I would never speak of my friends'." *AP*

Beach Boys concert

THE BEACH Boys are Manila-bound for a live performance on Oct. 7 at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

Led by Mike Love, founding member of America's rock and roll super group in the 1960s (and now the lead vocalist) the band currently consists of Bruce Johnston, Mike Kowalski, Randell Kirsh, Chris Farmer, Tim Bonhomme, John Cowsill and Scott Totten.

The original crew had the famous Wilsons—Brian, Carl and Dennis.

Beach Boys mega hits include "Surfin' USA," "Fun, Fun," "I Get Around," "California Girls," "Barbara Anna" and "Good Vibrations." Many were written by Love.

Billed as "The Beach Boys Live in Manila!" the concert is part of an ongoing world tour. Call 532-8883 for inquiries and 911-5555 for tickets.

Together again

LOS ANGELES—Robert Redford and Paul Newman are teaming up onscreen again, 36 years after "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," in a television documentary profiling Newman.

Redford, 68, will interview Newman, 80, for a documentary profile series called "Iconoclasts" to be made and broadcast by the Sundance Channel, founded by Redford. *AFP*

QTV for women, by GMA 7

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

Brother Eddie's Zoe 11 repackaged

EDDIE VILLANUEVA'S old television network, Zoe 11, has been renamed "QTV" and repackaged to appeal to women under a co-production deal with GMA-7.

That's "Q" for quality, according to industry sources. INQUIRER Entertainment obtained a copy of the concept paper that identified the target audience as "primarily female—possibly young housewives and stay-at-home women."

Last week, QTV mounted a series of roadshows at the Oakwood Hotel in Makati—to present the station and its program lineup to advertisers. A grand launch is set for Nov. 21.

Based on the concept paper, the lineup is a combination of foreign and locally produced shows.

"At least 20 local productions are confirmed," a GMA 7 contract star said. The Kapuso network's biggest talents and award-winning broadcast journalists topbill the programs that range from public-service programs to sitcoms.

These include "O, Mare Ko," a homespun version of the US hit, "Desperate Housewives."

Written by Gina Marissa Tagasa and directed by Soxy Topacio, "O, Mare Ko" is co-produced by QTV and Vera Multimedia—"Vera" from the real names of the show's four mainstays and co-producers, Victoria (Lorna Tolentino), Esmeralda (Amy Austria), Regina (Gina Alajar) and Alexandra (Sandy Andolong).

Several reality TV-type programs are in the works. Plus, there will be canned programs for children, Koreanovelas and classic Pinoy movies.

In sum, QTV hopes to maintain a "wholesome" image, in keeping with Villanueva's original vision for Zoe.

In a previous interview with INQUIRER Entertainment, Felipe L. Gozon, GMA 7 president and chief executive officer, said, "Only wholesome shows, consistent with the tenets of the Jesus Is Lord Movement (which "Brother" Eddie heads) will be aired on Channel 11."

One proposed show, "My Guardian Abby," has an angel for a main character.

There's another on Good Samaritans, "Pusong Wagi," to be hosted by Tessie Tomas.

Industry watchers initially suspected that QTV would have a 24-hour news format, to rival the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC). Instead, QTV seems to be challenging another ABS-CBN property, the UHF channel Studio 23.

QTV, however, will be aired on a VHF band in Mega Manila and on a UHF band in Cebu and Davao, as GMA 7's "new Free-to-Air (FTA)" TV channel.

Several advertisers at Oakwood agreed that QTV exhibited "an understanding of the middle-class market, with focus on women." Noted Hermie de Leon, managing director of MediaWise, Philippines: "[QTV] will give the competition [ABS-CBN] a really good fight." But, she said, it could also steal viewers from GMA 7.

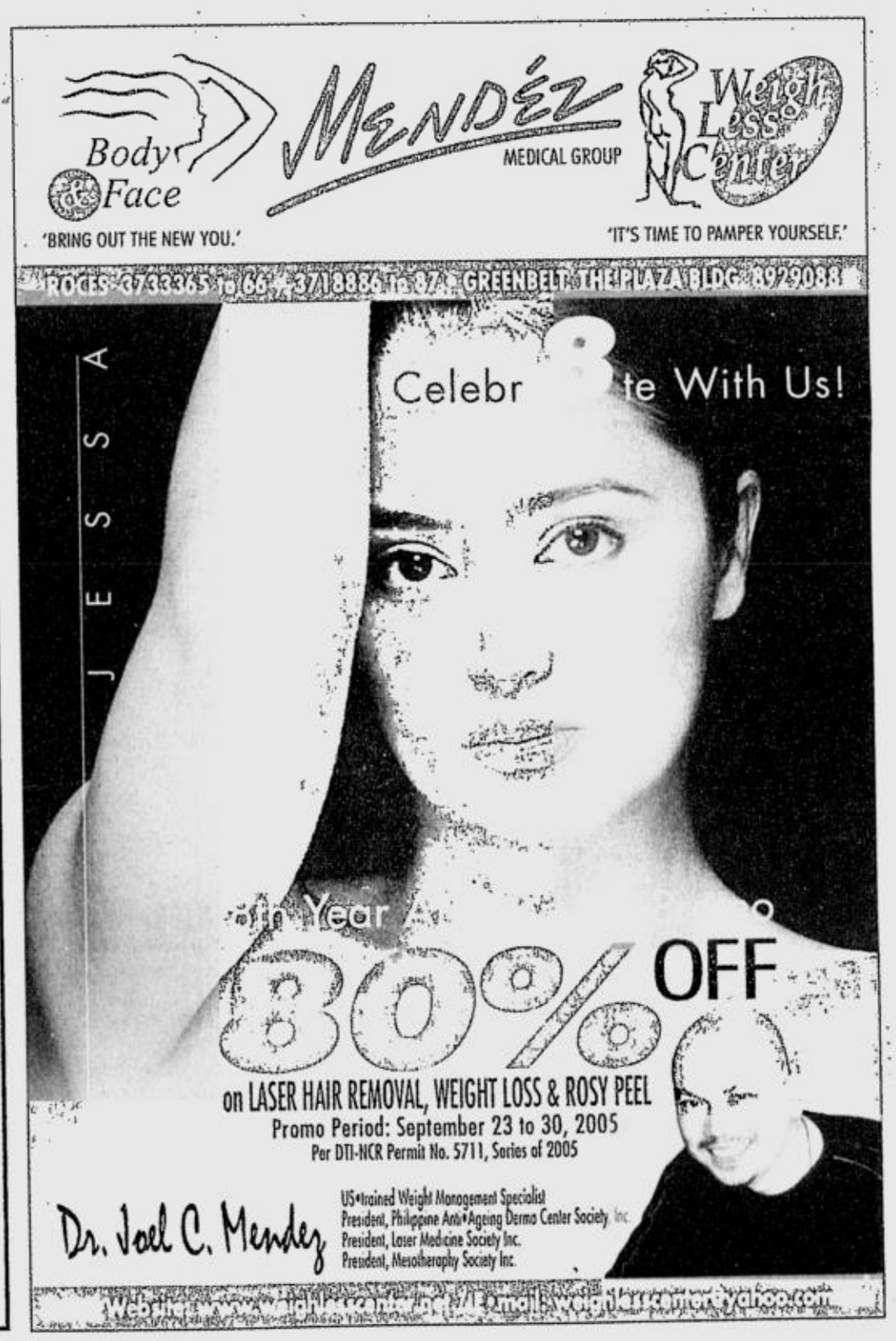
A Kapuso talent described the roadshows: "*Bongga* . . . elaborate, impressive. They rented seven suites."

A GMA 7 official confirmed this, saying major network stars entertained the guests.

SHOW TIME

'SALAMAT,' GEORGE

Kuh Ledesma pays tribute to the late OPM great George Canseco with a concert featuring his best-loved compositions, on his first death anniversary, Nov. 19. The show, aptly titled, "Paano Kita Mapasasalamatan," will be held at the Philippine International Convention Center. Kuh will be backed up by a 30-piece orchestra, and will have as guests Basil Valdez and Christian Bautista. Call 551-7253.



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'Rock Star' finale: Inq

LOS ANGELES—Opener: A startling sight last Thursday at Disney's special presentation of its upcoming films at the Kodak Theatre was a fully-bearded **Mel Gibson.**

Mel, rarely seen in public these days, has grown a beard that's almost as long as his neck. The actor-director was among several stars trotted out by Disney studio chief **Dick Cook** to drum up interest for its next releases. "Pardon the BLT," Mel joked, referring to t tion of his beard that looked like drip.

Mel talked about "Apocalypto," recting job since the controversial "The Passion of the Christ." While t shot in Aramaic, Latin and Hebre movie will be in yet another exotic Mayan dialect. Looking like he has weight, Mel sardonically stated, "T not be as bloody; it will be a little ful."

Also making a surprise appe **Johnny Depp**, in full Captain Jack galia, kohl-rimmed eyes and all. H finished each of Dick Cook's sen "rum." The star of the much-anti rates" 2 and 3 was onstage for only utes but the audience wildly applau if he performed a full "Hamlet." Th Hollywood charisma, if you ask me.

I'm still kicking myself for missin ing portion: **Elton John** in person, p song. The legend is set to score a animated feature, "Rapunzel Unbr er films coming soon from the st mouse built: "Casanova," "Chic "Narnia" (based on the footage sho looks like a lavish adaptation of book) and "The Greatest Game Ever

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Can't hear you, mate

We're still partially deaf, no th piercing screams of a **JD Fortune** f one seat away from us during last w of the "Rock Star: INXS" finale at t dios.

The poor young girl who sat righ female JD devotee must be sufferin tered eardrums herself. Not conte her love for JD, the 400-pound scr up often, dancing and shaking th rest of us in the seated audience (**Dave Navarro** and the INXS band our lives. It was like an intensity 10

Studio ushers constantly came "Ma'am, can you please stay seat them finally stood by our row to ma this rabid fan doesn't sprint and beloved JD to the stage floor while forming.

A surprisingly heavy down drenched LA for the first time in sev failed to keep "Rock Star" fans in be wanted to be part of the on-came stood in line outside the studio ga up umbrellas (a rare sight in these early morning call time did not det ple, either, from donning the reg gear—which in LA could mean an glittery tops to short shorts. Many wore the club staple, of course: bosom-baring tops.

Not a few snickers greeted the announcement inside the studio that each of the top three contenders received a 2006 Honda Civic. Somehow, a *rockista* tooling around in a Honda doesn't jive.

Remember me?

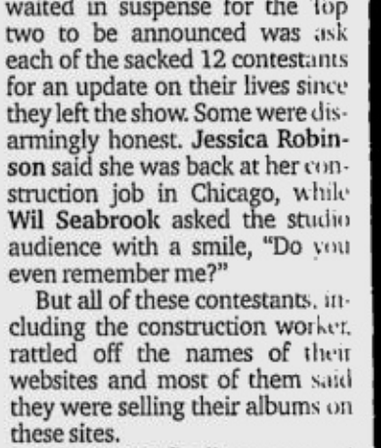
The deliberations among the INXS members that resulted in MiG being eliminated took a long time. Bill, the emcee who had been warming up the studio audiences before each of the tapings and who had been keeping the spectators' high level of enthusiasm during lulls, had his work cut out for him.

Among the things Bill (known as "Warm Up Guy" on "Rock Star" message boards) did while we all waited in suspense for the top two to be announced was ask each of the sacked 12 contestants for an update on their lives since they left the show. Some were disarmingly honest. **Jessica Robinson** said she was back at her construction job in Chicago, while **Wil Seabrook** asked the studio audience with a smile, "Do you even remember me?"

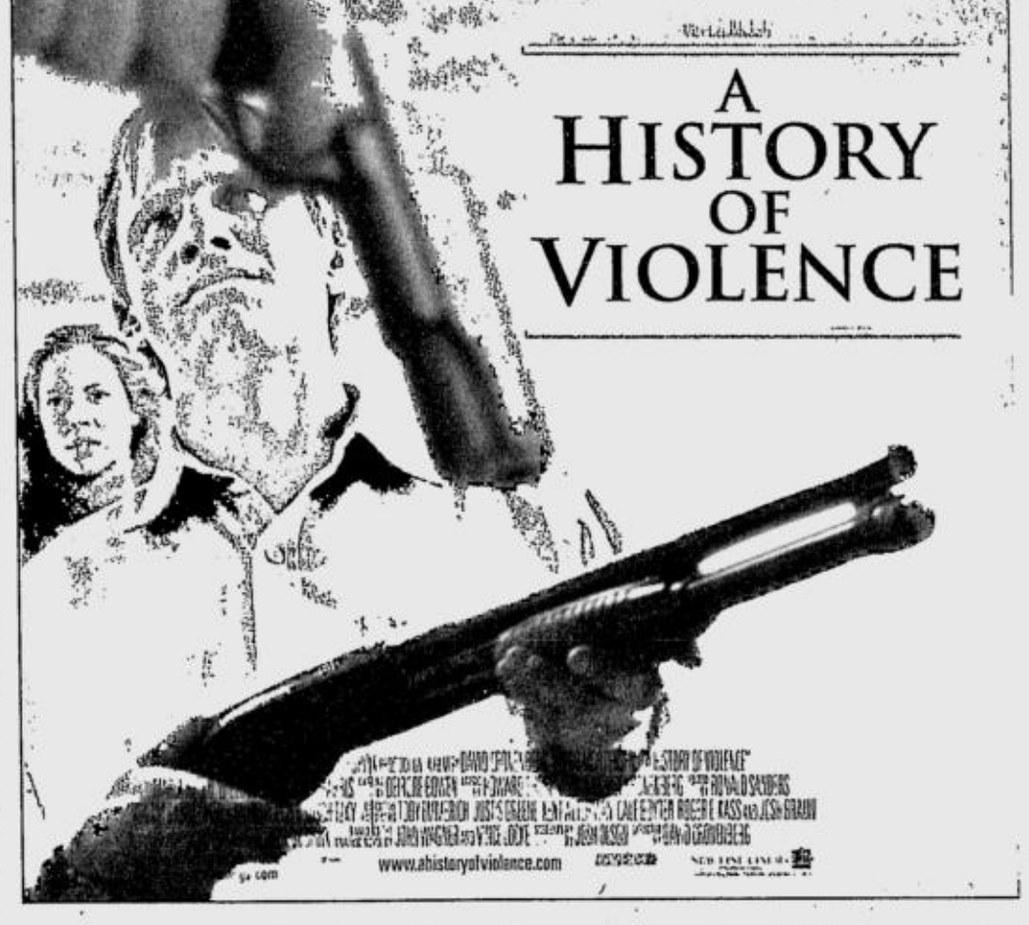
But all of these contestants, including the construction worker, rattled off the names of their websites and most of them said they were selling their albums on these sites.

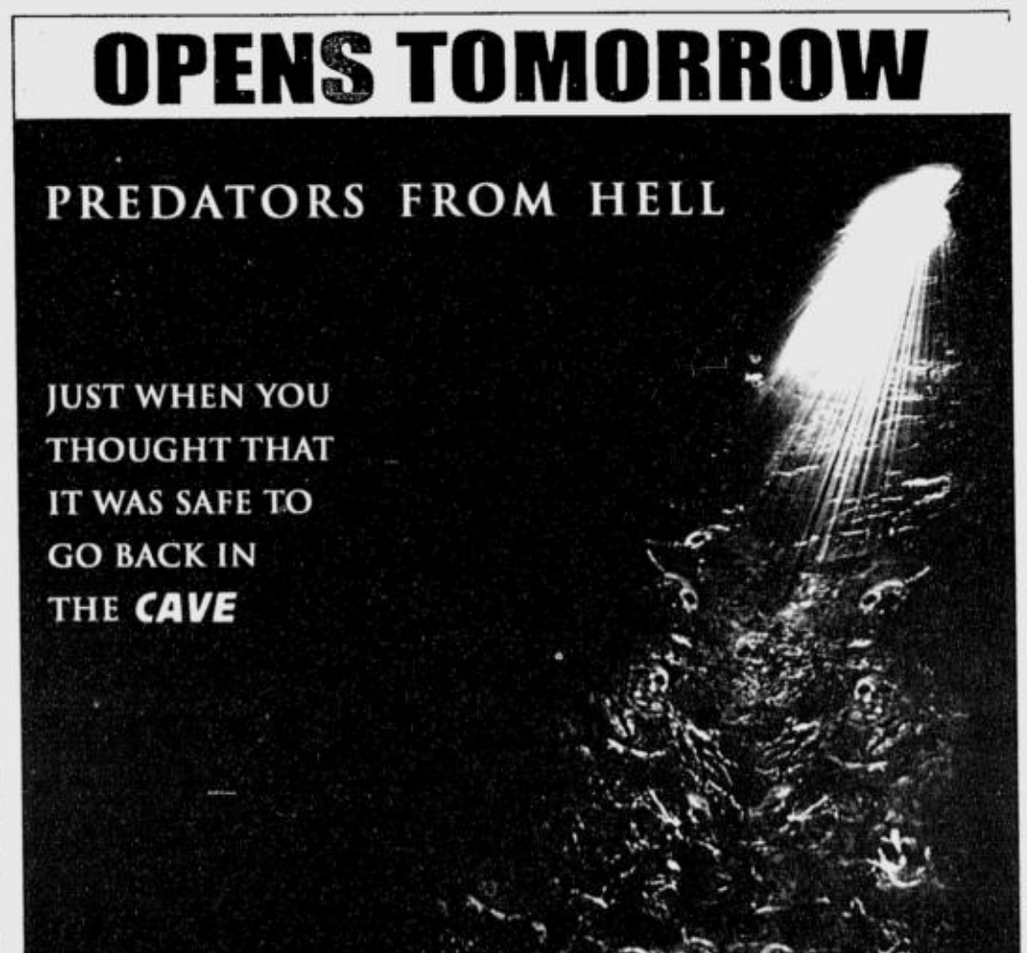
When INXS finally announced which two guys would stay, MiG understandably looked sad. Viewed up close, right there in the studio, MiG's shaken demeanor was heart-tugging. But before long, MiG was his cheery self again as he joined the eliminated contestants watching from the sidelines.

The house band, which did a terrific job backing the contenders for 11 weeks, must have also felt like they were eliminated from the show. They left the stage to make way for INXS and their instruments and equipment, which included fancy laser lights. The house band guys sat on the floor right beside me, since there



THE NEW INXS





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INXS' Tim Farris says farewell for now to MiG.

A STAR is born.

tion, the newly crowned rocker said, "That's my family up there." Then gesturing to the INXS members behind him, he quipped to his family, "This is the band I was telling you about." The "new INXS" sang several more songs. Vocally, JD sounded good with the band but only time will tell if this is the perfect match, personality-wise.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

THE FINAL three, MiG, JD and Marty

JD'S FIRST official interview

were no more empty seats.

Ms. JD Fan asked the guys, "How does it feel to be on the other side?" The drummer was game enough to answer, "It feels strange."

Mini-concert

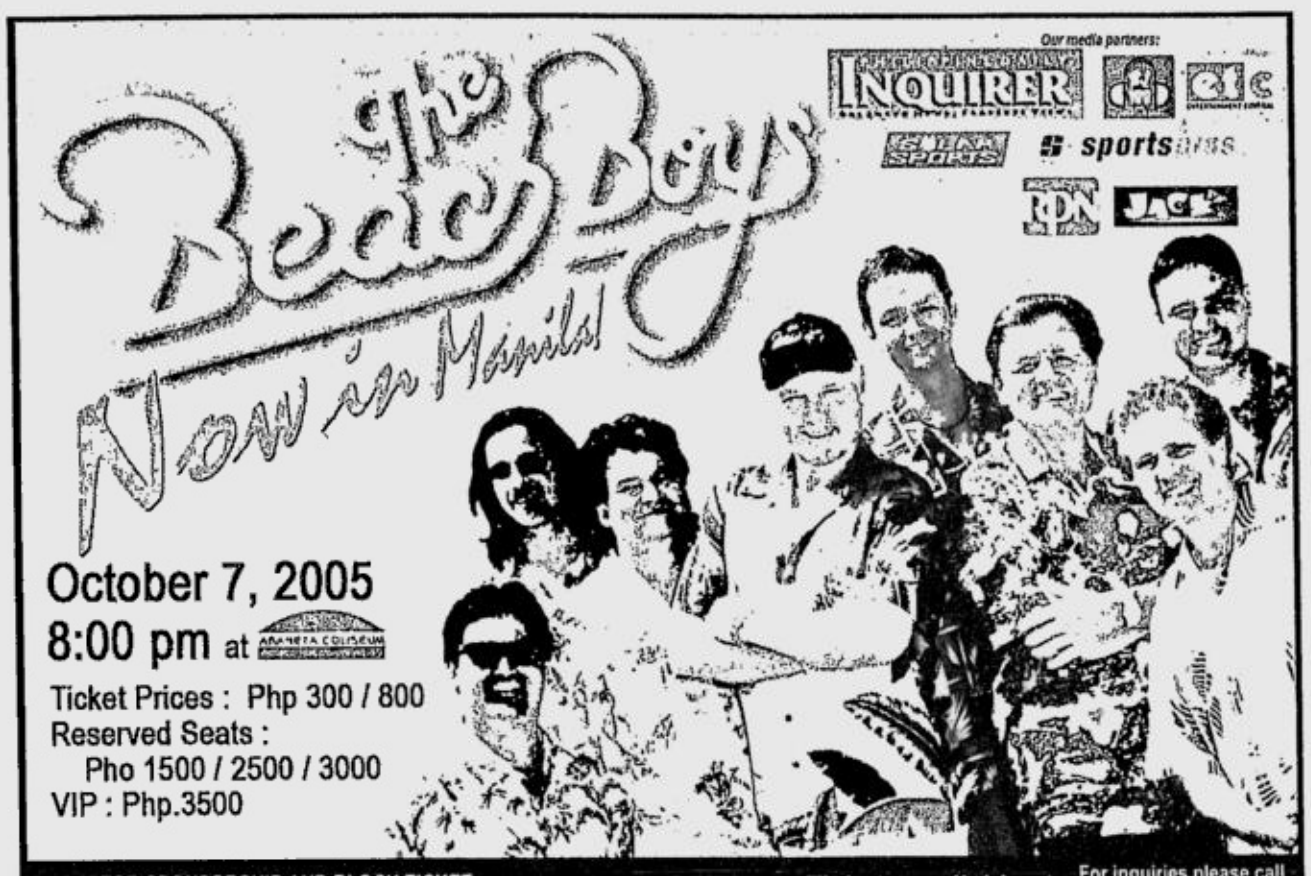
Dave Navarro turned around from his "throne," got up from his chair and walked over to the band, hugging and thanking each one. Even INXS, when they returned to their seats to make the final announcement, asked **Paul Mirkovich** and his colleagues why they were sitting in the back. By the way, **Brooke Burke** was surprisingly poised and engaging.

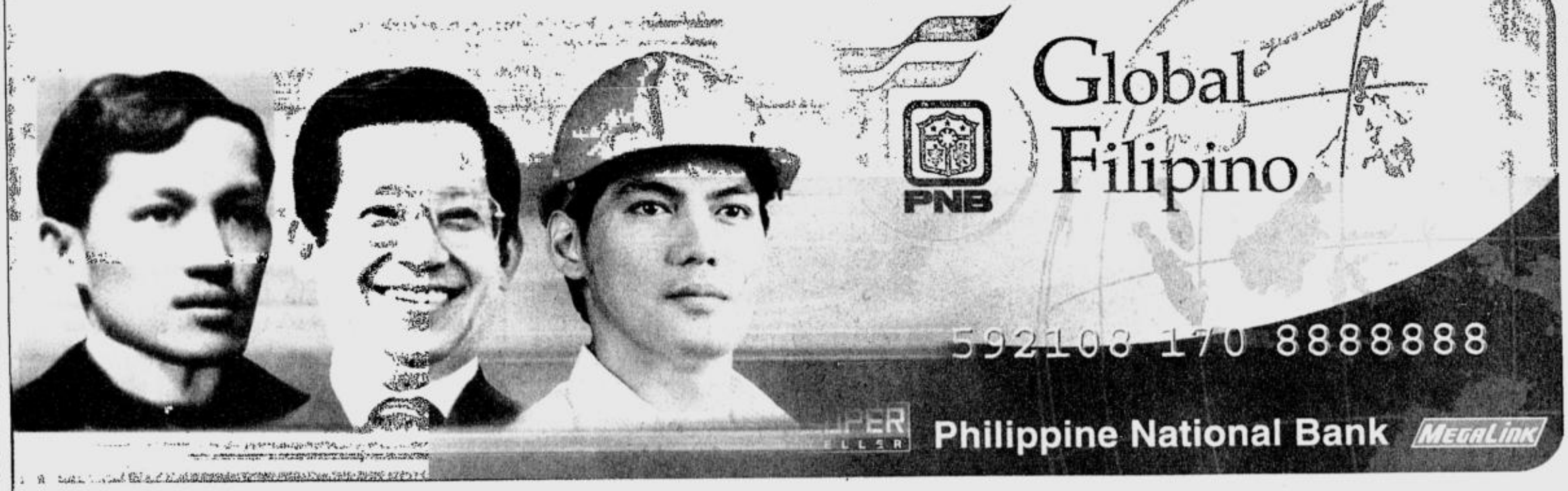
There was a long wait before that final decision was announced, so Bill conducted impromptu booty-shaking contests for males and females.

What the TV audiences from all over the world missed was a mini-concert with INXS and their new front man, JD. "We are INXS," proclaimed JD before one of the songs and indeed, he looked and sounded like he had been with the band for ages.

But when one of the INXS guys asked, "How are you holding up?" JD replied, "I don't even know if this is really happening." He added, "What a dream this is."

Looking up at the second level audience sec-





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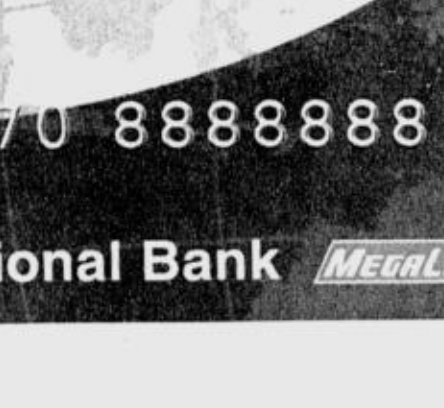

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Gov't raising ₱20B for Naia 3

THE GOVERNMENT has turned to DBP for help in lifting the dust covers off the controversial Naia 3 Terminal and open it for business.

DBP tapped to put up 10-year funds

By Clarissa S. Batino

DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES said it would raise up to P20 billion in 10-year funds for the government so it could finally operate the Naia 3 terminal.

INQUIRER sources said Malacanang had asked the bank to help the government raise the amount required to complete the takeover of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3.

DBP president Reynaldo David admitted that the bank was putting together a group of creditors that would contribute $300-$350 million in peso equivalent for this purpose.

The proceeds, according to sources, will be used primarily to pay the group that built Naia 3 and to complete additional work

GOV'T/ B11

WHAT'S INSIDE

10 foreign, local groups seen vying for PNOC-EC /B10

Battle of Viagras

/B5

Gov't expected to trim '05 deficit to P161B /B12

$600M in ADB loans eyed for power sector, microfinancing

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT WILL TAP TWO MAJOR program loans worth $600 million from the Asian Development Bank for the debt-ridden power sector and the fledgling microfinance industry.

Finance Assistant Secretary Gil Beltran told reporters the government had so far raised only P5.6 billion from program-linked official development assistance (ODA) this year, still way below the P22.4 billion programmed.

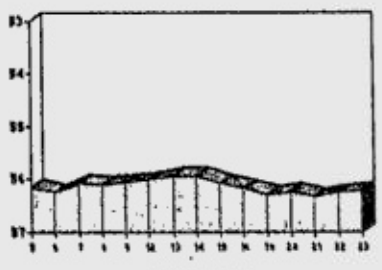
He said the government was in talks with the ADB on a $450-million program loan for the power sector, of which an initial tranche of $200 million could be released within this year.

Beltran said the government was also set to avail itself of a $150-million microfinance development loan from the ADB, with the initial

$600M/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



SEPTEMBER
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
₱ 56.225 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 23, 2005

¥ 111.13 = $1
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 22, 2005

GOLD: 465.00-465.50
per ounce Hong Kong, Sept. 23, 2005

STOCK MARKET

(See stock market report on Page B10)

End-Q3 buying seen to prop up market this week

THE MARKET IS SEEN TO CONTINUE ITS uphill climb this week, with trading to be propped up by some buying but tempered by the recent move of monetary authorities to raise the cost of borrowings.

A rise in interest rates is bad news to companies planning to fund their expansion through loans, analysts said.

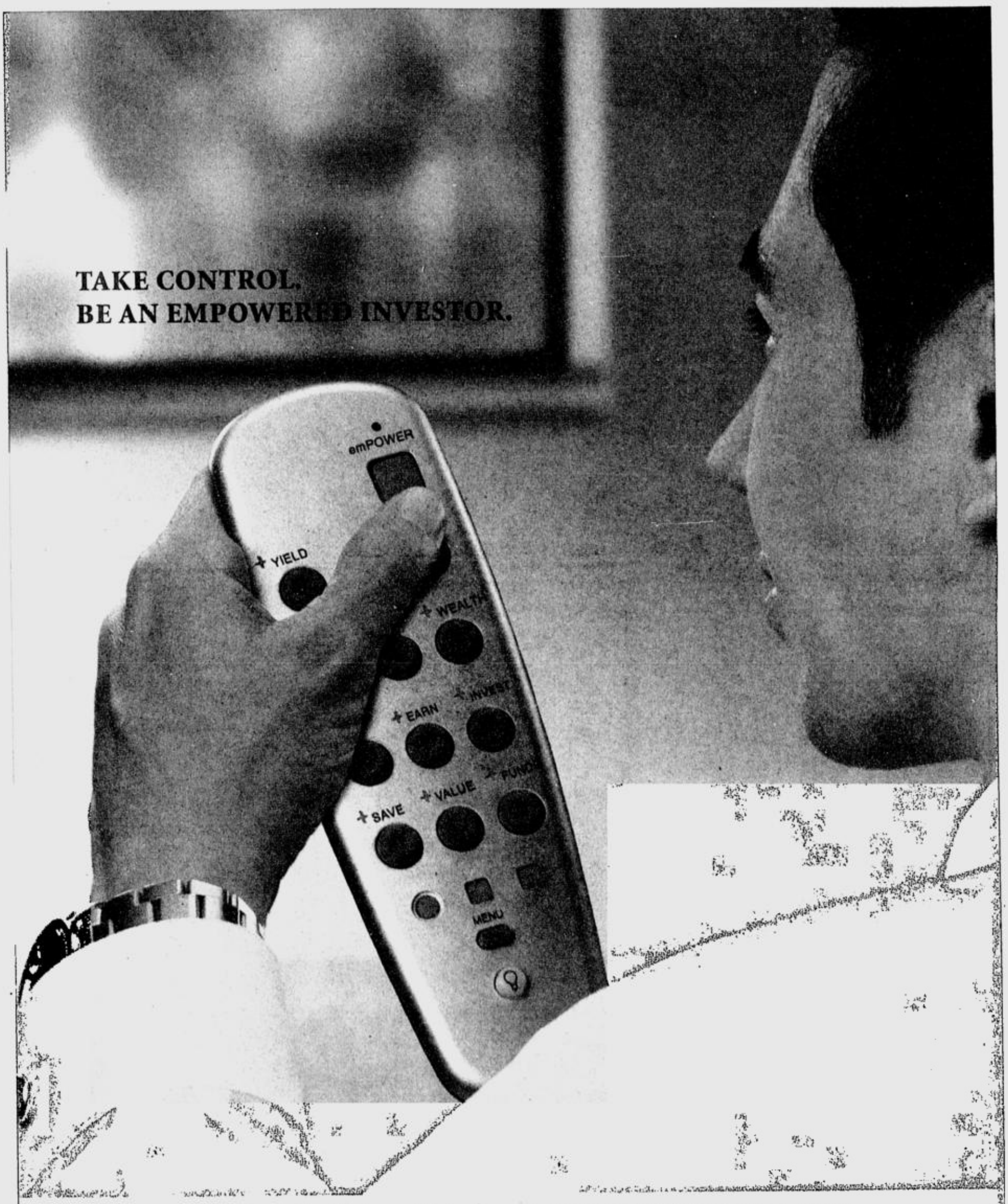
"The market will try to follow through on last week's surprising run up. This could be aided by quarter ending window dressing and improving sentiments over the political arena. Investors are slowly trooping back to the Philippines as calls for President Macapagal-Arroyo's ouster simmered down," Jose Vistan of AB Capital Securities said in a weekly report.

He added that buying might still be wobbly as oil prices were seen hitting $70 per barrel.

Vistan said share prices ended a five-day winning streak last week but managed to post a 49-point gain. The benchmark index gained 2.6 percent last week, ending at a one-month high at 1,959.51.

Telecom giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) led last week's rally, gaining as much as 6.5 percent to P1,630 on the back of its purchase of Dream Satel-

WINDOW/ B10



The power to grow your wealth is rewarding. This is especially true in a constantly changing and dynamic investment environment. That's why you need to be ready to act as the investment market upgrades from Common Trust Fund (CTF) to Unit Investment Trust Fund (UITF).

It would be wise, then, to take a closer look at the UITF made available through the American Express Bank Peso Cash Plus and Dollar Wealth Plus Deposit Accounts.

UITF	Available through American Express Bank	Earnings per Annum (as of 09/15/05)*
Philippine Dollar Fixed Income Fund	Dollar Wealth Plus Account	10.84%
Peso Short Term Fixed Income Fund	Peso Cash Plus Account	8.35%

*Annualized historical return of the Third Party Funds, net of taxes and fund manager fee, gross of American Express Bank's custodianship fee for the last 12 months.

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Tel. No. 722-9888

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American Express Bank
A Savings Bank

Cebu Pacific gets first new A319; 3 more due at year's end

HAMBURG, SEPT. 23—CEBU Pacific on Friday took delivery of the first of 12 Airbus 319s and would press it into domestic service in a few days.

The new aircraft left Airbus' own airport in this northern city of Germany late in the afternoon. As of this writing, the plane had just taken off from Dubai after a short refueling stop and was on its way to Bangkok for an overnight lay-over before arriving in Manila early Sunday afternoon.

Depending on its load, the 150-seat A319 can fly non-stop to Beijing, or even Perth in Australia.

CEB will take delivery of four A319s this year and the rest through February 2007. Two brand-new A320s were delivered to CEB in May and June, its first stage in a complete re-fleeting program.

Daniel Carnelly, Airbus marketing manager, said last Thursday that the A319 is lighter partly because of new materials. It is quieter inside and outside, burns less fuel yet carries more seats than CEB's present fleet, and has been designed for a quicker turnaround and even better on-time performance.

The turnaround advantage, additional capacity, and lower operating costs should make CEB more competitive, Carnelly said.

If its two new A320s were a gauge, Carnelly was right on the button. They were fielded on the Davao and Cebu routes, they immediately raised CEB's market share in those areas.

Carnelly said every five minutes saved per flight equate to more revenues in one year since an aircraft earns only while on the air, not on the ground.

Once the JG Summit unit's re-fleeting program is completed in early 2007, it would have one of the youngest, if not the youngest, fleet in Asia.

IBM LTO Generation 3:
Great just got greater!

IBM

IBM, the inventor of tape technology 50 years ago, has done it again. Reaffirming its No.1 revenue ranking in worldwide tape sales for 2004[1], IBM is again first off the blocks in making the latest *Gen 3 Ultrium LTO* tape drives commercially available in the Philippines **today.**

With the new generation of tape drives, you can now backup almost one terabyte (800GB compressed) of your valuable data on a single cartridge at a blistering speed of up to 80MB/s. Together with IBM's *Tivoli Storage Manager* software, what would usually take several hours of backup is now reduced to just minutes.

[1] Source: IDC Competitive Analysis, Worldwide Branded Tape 1Q04-4Q04 Vendor Analysis (May 2005).

3580-L33 Ultrium 3 Tape Drive Enhancements

- **Native Data Transfer Rate of 80MB/sec**
- **Up to 800GB per cartridge compressed capacity**
- **Dual stage 16 channel head actuator.** Designed to provide precision head alignment to help support higher track density and improved data integrity and backwards compatibility with previous LTO generations.
- **Independent tape loader and threader motors and positive pin retention.** Designed to help improve drive reliability.
- **Graceful dynamic braking.** Designed to maintain tension to help prevent stretching or breaking the tape and loose tape wraps.
- **Larger internal buffer.** Internal buffer size has been doubled over the Ultrium 2 to 128 MB.
- **Highly integrated electronics using IBM engineered copper technology.** Designed to help reduce the total number of components in the drive, lower chip temperatures, and reduce power requirements.

FREE!!!

Tivoli software +

While stocks are available, every purchase of any Gen 3 tape drive entitles you to three (3) data cartridges, Tivoli Storage Manager backup software, 3 yrs. 24x7 Warranty Upgrade and Basic Installation worth over Php 60,000.00.

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* Price is valid until September 30, 2005 only.

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  - Market Research Tools
  - Determining Market Feasibility
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  - matching product to market needs
  - quality-delivery and productivity models
- Organizing for Implementation
- Finance for start-up enterprises
- Apprenticeship and group exercises

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January 17 to April 5, 2006

Do you need to learn the art and science of enterprise planning and business implementation?

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- Implementation
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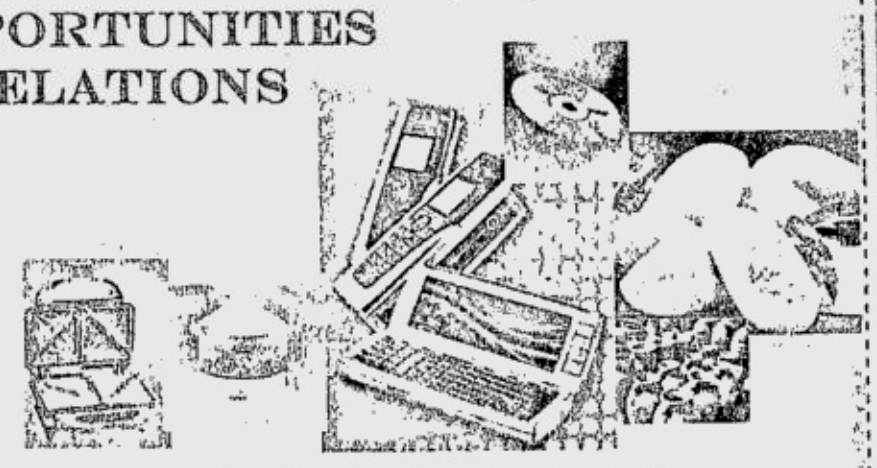

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Convergys agents keep close to home

Convergys Commonwealth's doors are open to job seekers 5 days a week

Who says a call center job will have to drag you to the concrete jungle of the central business district? Convergys Corporation, the world leader in outsourced customer services operations, has opened its seventh contact center in the Philippines. And as 64% of its employees will say, the office is right next to home.

The new Convergys center, which can seat a total of 1,500 customer service agents, is located in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City. A grand inauguration will be held today with guests of honor Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte and Senator Mar Roxas.

Convergys Commonwealth offers a distinct advantage for Quezon City residents. Strategically located in a main artery of the city, the center is in close proximity to residential villages and subdivisions, as well as several schools and universities. It also links Quezon City to main roads of Rizal Province, extending employment opportunities to that area.

Applicants taking the company's computer based assessment, the second phase of the company's recruitment process.

"With Convergys so close to home, I have a lower cost of living and get to enjoy more of my salary," says 24-year old Tracy Lemuel A. Isidro. "Working here is like going back to school---you learn, make friends and have fun."

Isidro is a resident of Antipolo, Rizal and is determined in her work at the new center. "I wanted to work for a company that gives me pride in what I do. To work for the best in the contact center industry, now that is really something to be proud of," she says.

Convergys is a five-time consecutive awardee of America's Most Admired Company, the annual ratings list of Fortune Magazine. The company ranked number one in two categories for the diversified outsourcing industry: Innovation and Social Responsibility.

The company boasts of several industry awards and recognition. It is a member of the S&P 500, Fortune 1000 and Forbes 2000, and reported revenues reached $2.5 billion for 2004.

Locally, Convergys has the fastest growing call center operations, growing to almost 6,000 people in just two years. Aside from the Commonwealth center, Convergys has contact centers in Makati, Ortigas, Alabang, Cebu City and a Recruitment Center in U-Belt. Construction of its corporate headquarters for the Philippines is set for completion within the year.

Nina Frances Castro, a former media and special projects consultant, lives in a subdivision right on Commonwealth Avenue. Since working in Convergys, Castro says her experience has been fruitful and fun. "Having fun is second nature to the job," she says. "This beats sitting in traffic! Working close to home is a great way of saving time and hard-earned money."

The Commonwealth center features several fast food establishments and convenience stores in the building. Other conveniences for Convergys Commonwealth employees are free parking, 24/7 concessionaire, cyber desk area, staff lounge.

Former agency manager Gian Paolo Laureola decided that working in one of the most prestigious call centers in the country would be worth it. The easy accessibility from his home was a bonus. He lives just a street away in Tandang Sora Avenue.

"Working so close to home saves a lot of time, gas and money. It is very convenient for the employees," he says. "Working for Convergys has been quite amazing. There is a lot of room for growth as promised by the company."

Other contact center operations perhaps cannot boast of having a Filipino expatriate among its management leaders. A former English teacher from Cebu, Malu Ros began as a senior manager for Convergys Philippines. Today, she is based in the company's Jacksonville, Florida office and is Director for Global Communications and Culture Training.

Like all Convergys offices worldwide, management teams are composed of the country's nationals and are given the same opportunities as their international counterparts.

Convergys provides agents a career path to follow and a future, dispelling a common misconception in this dynamic industry. Opportunities for advancement are available for good, hard-working agents.

With the new Commonwealth center facility, the company will also continue to develop strong linkages with schools and universities in the area. The company has worked directly with schools to provide added training for teachers in oral English communication skills as part of its corporate social responsibility projects.

Convergys Country General Manager Marife Zamora estimates that the industry hoped to end the year with over 96,000 Filipinos employed in contact centers. "We recognize that our continued success depends on partnership with organizations that are leaders in building a strong foundation of education among our youth – our youth being our future Convergys employees," she says.

It's not about just getting the work done, it's about taking care of our people who do the work. At Convergys, there is always room for growth.

We cater to our clients, and our team leaders cater to our agents - the support system of Convergys employees.

Interested applicants can call Convergys at

8577760/756 7078 or email or visit Convergys Commonwealth Center located at Diliman Commercial Center, Diliman, Quezon City

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Eisenhower cor., Club Filipino Ave.
Greenhills, San Juan, Metro Manila

ANTIPOLO

PRB_ANT 014 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 134sqm
SANTANA VILL., Brgy. Hinapao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 270,000

PRB_ANT 015 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,000sqm w/ WARE HOUSE
M.L QUEZON AVE. Brgy. San Jose
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,524,000

PRB_ANT016 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 171sqm
Pound St. LORES SUBD. Balimbing
MIN. BID PRICE: P 427,500

PRB_ANT017 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 574sqm
Yakal St. BRGY. SAN JOSE
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,000,000

CALOOCAN CITY

PRB_CAL022 - RESIDENTIAL BLDG
F.A 1,000sqm
BAGUMBONG RD. North
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,070,000

EWB_CAL001 - VACANT LOT
L.A .2,375 sqm, Saranay BAGUMBONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,087,500

EWB_CAL003 - VACANT LOT
LA 1,342 sqm
Saranay BAGUMBONG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,744,600

LAS PIÑAS CITY

PRB_LSP002 - RESIDENTIAL BLDG.
L.A 300sqm
Circle Gail St. SANTOS VILLA
MIN. BID PRICE. P 1,700,000

URB_LSP003 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 180 sqm.
Skylab St., Moonwalk Village
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,500,000

MALABON

CSB_MLB 04 - WARE HOUSE BLDG
L.A 1,000sqm F.A 393sqm
BRGY. PANGULO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000.00

MAKATI CITY

PRB_MKT 001 - OFFICE CONDO
F.A 38.33sqm
MAKATI EXEC CENTER, Alfonso St.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,400,000

EWB_MKT004 - OFFICE CONDO
LA 277.63 sqm w/ PARKING
THE WORLD CENTER TOWER, Gil Puyat
MIN. BID PRICE: P 15,275,200.00

RL_MKT002 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO.
F.A 35.62 sqm. (Various) w/ rental income
SHANGHAI TOWER, San Antonio Vill.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 997,920

MANDALUYONG

PDB_MAN001 HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 228 sqm.
FRANCISCO COMPOUND., F. Roxas, Brgy. Pag-asa
MIN. BID PRICE: P3,239,600.00

MANILA

PDB_ MLA006 - 2 COMMERCIAL CONDO
FA 224.73 sqm & FA 389.60 (G/F & 2/F)
F. Agoncillo St. cor. Pedro Gil, ERMITA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 13,508,000

MUNTINLUPA

URB_MUN001 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200 sqm.
VILLAGE NEIGHBORHOOD ASS. Cupang
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,500,000

CTB_MUN003 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 625 sqm. F.A. 433.26sqm
Saint Mary St. SAN JOSE SUBD., Cupang
MIN. BID PRICE: P 5,250,000

ORTIGAS CENTER

RL_PSG086 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO
F.A 126 sqm w/ Parking
AIC GOLD TOWER (w/rental income)
Back of Robinsons Galleria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,840,000

PARAÑAQUE CITY

CTB_PRQ 001 - 2 STOREY TOWNHOUSE
L.A 330sqm
Balarang St. AIRPORT VILLAGE, Moonwalk
MIN. BID PRICE. P 3,400,000

CTB_PRQ 002 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 217sqm
Sampaguita St. SOUTHGREEN PARK
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500,000

PRB_PRQ 011 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 265sqm
IMATATDO SUBD, San Isidro
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,600,000

PRB_PRQ012 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 529sqm
Copenhagen St. MERVILLE PARK SUBD
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,900,000

URB_ PRQ013 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 105 sqm.
BAYVIEW INT'L. TOWER III, Roxas Blvd.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,700,000

URB_PRQ014 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 383 sqm.
UNITED PARAÑAQUE SUBD, Sucat
MIN. BID PRICE. P 2,000,000

URB_PRQ015 - 3-DOOR APARTMENT
L.A. 120sqm
WELCOME SUBD., San Antonio
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,200,000

QUEZON CITY

ATB_QC005 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 3,434 sqm.
In front of RESIDENCIA SUBD., Camarin
MIN. Bid Price P 24,038,000

ATB_QC006 - 2-STOREY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 270 sqm.
C. Francisco St., NORTH SUSANA VILL.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,700,000

ATB_QC007 - 2-STOREY TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 58.8 per unit
WEST CLASSIC GARDEN, Fairview
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,100,000

ATB_QC008 - RESIDENTIAL CONDO.
F.A 60.52 sqm.
Unit 8D- ATHERTON BLDG.
MIN. Bid Price P 2,715,000

PRB_QC003 - 4 DOOR APARTMENT
L.A 320sqm
#46 INT. BAESA Baesa St.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,250,000

PRB_QC004 - 6 DOOR APARTMENT
L.A 687sqm
LELAND DRIVE, Ballintawak
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,600,000

URB_ QC005 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 579 sqm.
10th Consul St., WEST FAIRVIEW SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

CSB_QC008 - MIX-USE
F.A 33.30sqm
SAN JOSE CONDO. II , Sikatuna Vill.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 600,000.00

CSB_QC27 - APARTMENT
L.A 250sqm. F.A 284sqm
Pitimini St., SAN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE
MIN. BID PRICE: P4,000,000

CSB_QC26 - VACANT LOT
L.A 626sqm.
Sta. Fe St., SAN FRANCISCO DEL MONTE
MIN. BID PRICE: P5,000,000

MU_QC087 - TOWNHOUSE
F.A 343.25 sqm w/ Parking
10th St., New Manila
MIN. BID PRICE: P 13,725,000

MU_QC110 - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 46.61 sqm w/ mezzanine
PARC 15th Condo 15th Ave., Cubao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,200,000

ESB_QC 001 - 3 STOREY TOWNHOUSE
L.A 48.03sqm F.A 96sqm
VILLA MARIE EXEC. Cubao.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,950,000.00

SAN JUAN

RSB_SJN 001 - 3 STOREY TOWNHOUSE
L.A. 66sqm F.A 210sqm
Centennial Place Bonifes St. HORSESHOE VILL.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,830,000

CSB_SJ009 - 5 STORY BLDG
L.A 574sqm F.A 3,554 (55% FINISHED)
Hardboard cor. B. Padilla St. LITTLE BAGUIO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 26,500,000.00

TAGUIG

PRB_TAG013 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 201sqm
J.P RIZAL St. San Juan Luna, Ususan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 700,000

CSB_TAG030 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 400sqm.
AFPOVI , Fort Bonifacio
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000.00

VALENZUELA

WBI_VAL014 - VACANT LOT
L.A 50sqm
MAPULANG LUPA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,120,000

PDB_ VAL014 - RESIDENTIAL BLDG.
LA 193 sqm
BERNARDINO SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: 930,300

PDB_ VAL015 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. sqm
VIENTE REALES, Tugalog
MIN BID PRICE: P 1,115,000

BATANGAS

PDB_BAT082 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 637 sqm.
Gladiola St., CITY PARK SUBD, Lipa
MIN. BID PRICE: P826,100

PDB_BAT083 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 242 sqm.
C.V. Lopez St., LIPA
MIN. BID PRICE: P826,100

MMA_BAT089 - BEACH FRONT LOTS
VERDE ISLAND
L.A 192 sqm MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,248,000
L.A 182 sqm MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,833,000
L.A 304 sqm MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,976,000

CSB_BAT016 - 13 PARCELS OF LAND
L.A 68,539sqm (w/ Teal View)
Brgy. Quiling, TALISAY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,854,000

BULACAN

CTB_BLN 006 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 2,313sqm
Brgy. Longos PULILAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,000,000

ATB_BLN023 - INDUSTRIAL LOT
L.A. 3,335 sqm.
MEYCAUAYAN INDUSTRIAL SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,337,500

PDB_BLN 020 - H & L W/ WAREHOUSE
LA 672 sqm
Rustia St., Tibag, BALIUAG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

PDB_BLN023 - RESIDENTIAL HOUSE & LOT
LA 656 sqm
TRIPLE JUNCTION SUBD, Malungao
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,045,000

PDB_BLN029 - COMMERCIAL LOT & BLDG.
LA 991 sqm
Brgy. Sapang Putol, SAN ILDEFONSO
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,077,500

PDB_BLN032 - HOUSE & LOT
LA 607 sqm
Hulo, MEYCAUAYAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,249,000

PRB_BUL005 - VACANT LOT
L.A 729sqm
B. F. ROJRA St. Brgy. San Jose
MIN. BID PRICE: P 990,000

WBI_BUL001 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 502 sqm.
MADALENA SUBD. Balagtas
MIN. BID PRICE: P1,104,400.00

WBI_BUL002 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 6,775 sqm. (various titles)
MADALENA SUBD. Balagtas
MIN. BID PRICE: P13,550,000.00

WBI_BUL003 - RESIDENTIAL LOT w/ BLDG.
L.A. 1000 sqm
Bagbaguin, STA. MARIA
MIN. BID PRICE: P5,500,000.00

WBI_BUL004 - LOT W/ BUILDING
L.A. 2,384 sqm.
Inaon, PULILAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P500,000.00

WBI_BUL005 - RICE FIELD
L.A. 3,3659 sqm.
Peñabatan, PULILAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P1,500,000.00

WBI_BUL006 - VACANT LAND
L.A. 4,528 sqm w/ RICE FIELD.
Taal, PULILAN
MIN. BID PRICE: P1,810,000.00

WBI_BUL007 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 15,780 sqm.
Lagog, ANGAT
MIN. BID PRICE: P394,500.00

WBI_BUL008 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 20,571 sqm w/ BLDG.
Sulucan, ANGAT
MIN. BID PRICE: P4,500,000.00

WBI_BUL009 - PASTURE LAND
L.A. 15,846/19,032sqm
ALAGAO San Ildefonso
MIN. BID PRICE: P1,200,000

CAVITE CITY

CSB_CVT011- 2 PARCELS OF LAND
L.A 53,332sqm
MANILA SOUTHWOODS Ph II, Carmona
MIN. BID PRICE: P 21,333,000.00

PRB_CVT006 - VACANT LOT
L.A 477sqm
Happiness St. CITYLAND HIEGHTS, Carmona
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,192,500

PRB_CVT007 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 180sqm
VILLANUEVA SUBD. ,Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 913,000

PRB_CVT008 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 133sqm
Brgy. San Andres I, DDB area C, DASMARIÑAS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 390,000

PRB_CVT009 - VACANT LOT
L.A 332sqm
CITYLAND GARDEN BREEZE
MIN. BID PRICE. P 200,000

PRB_CVT010 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 200sqm
Narra St., BRGY STO NIÑO Dasmariñas
MIN. BID PRICE: P 850,000

RSC_CVT011 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 740 sqm
MOLINO, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,700,000

RSC_CVT012 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 122 sqm.
Tubuan, SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 300,000

RSC_CVT013 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 295
Poblacion, SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,000,000

RSC_CVT014 - AGRI-VACANT LOT
L.A. 25,635 sqm.
Indang, Kayquit, INDANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,076,200

RSC_CVT015 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 21,976 sqm.
Laloan II Along Aguinaldo Hi-way, SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 46, 149,600

RSC_CVT016 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 37,464 sqm.
Biga, SILANG
MIN. BID PRICE: P 74,928,000

URB_CVT017 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 1,200 sqm.
Gaudier St., Daang Bukid, Poblacion, BACOOR
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,500,000

PDB_CVT050 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 626 sqm
Trece Martinez St. MAGALLANES
MIN. BID PRICE: P 3,762,708.47

ATB_CVT025 - 11 TOWNHOUSE UNITS
L.A. 44 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm. per unit
GOLD RICH VILLAS, Bacoor
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,500,000

EWB_CVT008 - 2 STOREY RESIDENTIAL DUPLEX
LA 80 sqm
GREENWOODS HEIGHTS, Dasmariñas
MIN BID PRICE: P 950,000.00

CEBU CITY

PRB_CBU020 - CONDO UNIT
F.A 116.84sqm
REGENCY CREST LUXURY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,000,000

LAGUNA

PRB_LGN018 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 501sqm
Mendoza St. SAN ROQUE, San Pedro
MIN. BID PRICE: P 250,000

PRB_LGN019 - 28 VACANT LOTS
L.A 3,317sqm (77sqm - 192 sqm per lot)
SPRING HOMES SUBD. Phase III
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,267,600 or P2,800/sqm

WBI_LGN010 - 4 AGRI LOTS
L.A. 11,566sqm
BULILAN SUR, Pila
MIN. BID PRICE: P 14,566,000

WBI_LGN011 - 2 AGRI LOTS
L.A. 10,001sqm w/ BLDG
PAGALANGAN, Victoria
MIN. BID PRICE: P 9,000,000

WBI_LGN012 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A. 150sqm
SAN VICENTE, San Pedro
MIN. BID PRICE: P 200,000

PDB_LGN070 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 1,174 sqm
National Rd., Brgy. Batong Malaki LOS BAÑOS
MIN. BID PRICE: P 10,528,000

PDB_LGN076 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A 491.4 sqm
National highway, Real, CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 7,371,000

PDB_LGN078 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 645 sqm
AMAR SUBD. Balibago, Sta. Rosa
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,380,500

LDB_LGN 015 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 328/334/300sqm
El Vinda, SAN PEDRO
MIN. BID PRICE. P 3,703,700

LDB_LGN 012 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 4,000sqm
PAGSAWITAN, Sta. Cruz
MIN. BID PRICE: P 22,000,000

LDB_LGN 013 - COMMERCIAL LOT
L.A. 2,700/2,700/4,909sqm
Brgy. Lecheria, CALAMBA
MIN. BID PRICE: P 98,000,000

PDB_LGN074 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,000 sqm
Chico St. CERIS SUBD. Canlubang
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,120,000

PAMPANGA

SB_PAM 004 - VACANT LOT
L.A 3,785sqm
Cabalantan, BACOLOR (Olongapo & Gapan)
MIN. BID PRICE: P 6,000,000

WBI_PAM015 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
L.A. 15,913sqm
TABUYOC, Apalit
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1 750,430

QUEZON PROVINCE

OCP_QP003 - AGRICULTURAL LOT
LA 79,671 sqm
Brgy. Palola, LUCBAN
MIN. BID. PRICE: P 3,200,000.00

PDB_ QP057 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 948 sqm
Rosa Ext. MARILAG SUBD., Gulang-Gulang
MIN BID PRICE: P 3,504,000

RIZAL

ATB_RZL014 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
City L.A. = 1,748
Sto. Rosario St., MILAGRO SUBD.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 4,370,000

CTB_RZL 006 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 1,992sqm (FRONTING Valley Golf Club)
Don Celso Tuason Ave, VALLEY GOLF
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

CSB_RZL026 - 2 LOTS W/ WAREHOUSE BLDG.
L.A 1,337sqm. & 2,491sqm F.A.
VALLEY GOLF DRIVE, Cainta
MIN. BID PRICE: P 38,700,000

PDB_RZL042 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 1,046 sqm
AVEEMAR SUBD., Angono
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,092,000

PDB_RZL043 - VACANT RESIDENTIAL LOT
LA 300 sqm
Delaware St. PALOS VERDE EXEC.
MIN. BID PRICE: P 900,000

URB_RZL001 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 571 sqm.
BROOKSIDE HILLS SUBD., Cainta
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,700,000

WBI_RZL013 - 2 VACANT LOTS
L.A. 218/204sqm
BINANGONAN Rizal
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,181,600

CTB_RZL 005 - RESIDENTIAL LOTS
L.A. (Various)
AQUA MONTE HIEGHTS Binangonan
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,500 per sqm

TARLAC

MDG_TRC088 - MANGO ORCHARD
L.A 39,324 sqm
Sto. Niño
MIN. BID PRICE: P 8,000,000

TAGAYTAY CITY

PRB_TGY021 - COMMERCIAL UNIT
L.A 200sqm
GENERAL AGUINALDO Highway
MIN. BID PRICE. P 4,500,000

RSB_TGY017 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 582 sqm.
Kaybagal TAGAYTAY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 2,910,000

RSB_CVT018 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 234 sqm.
Iruhin, TAGAYTAY
MIN. BID PRICE: P 585,000

CSB_TGY017 - 3 RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A (a) 349sqm; (b) 199sqm
(1.5 kl. Away from Casino Filipino)
(a) B1 L05 ST. JOSEPH SUBD.
(b) B1 L02 ST. JOSEPH SUBD. Mendez
MIN. BID PRICE: a) P 1,745,000;
b) 995,000

PDB_ CVT054 - RESIDENTIAL LOT
L.A 316 sqm
ROYALE TAGAYTAY, Alfonso
MIN. BID PRICE: P 1,738,000

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Our biggest export

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Cielito F. Habito

BASED ON NET FOREIGN EXchange earnings brought into the economy, our biggest export earner is not electronics and semiconductors. It is people.

According to Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) statistics, overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) sent home a record $935 million in June 2005 alone, bringing the January-June total to $4.9 billion. In the same month, electronics exports earned us $2.174 billion, but we had also imported $1.731 billion worth of electronics that are mostly processed into those exports. Thus, the net amount brought in by electronics was only about $443 million, or less than half of what the OFWs brought in. And this just counts remittances through the official banking system. The total OFW remittances are estimated to be at least double of what is accounted for, with some estimates putting it at almost triple. Remittances also amounted to more than three times all the foreign direct investments we managed to get in the first half of 2004, or more than 100 times in 2003! We are, indeed, in the lucrative business of exporting our people.

Lucrative business

For some of our major banks, the remittance business has become a major profit center. But there is a shady side to this as well. Through the years, the OFW remittance business has reportedly emerged as a favored way for laundering billions of pesos in *jueteng* (and possibly drug) money. Here, the *jueteng* operator teams up with agents abroad, who accept the *padalas* sent home by the OFWs in foreign exchange. The *jueteng* operator, in turn, pays the family at home in pesos. This way, dirty money does not only get readily converted into foreign currency, but is also spirited overseas quite easily. Ever wonder how the most unlikely people, including small town politicians, manage to acquire fabulous real properties abroad? Lucrative business, indeed.

Saving grace

The government itself collected P14.4 billion from the fees charged on all the 933,588 workers who were deployed in 2004. An OFW applicant reportedly pays an average of P15,400 in government fees before he or she leaves the country. And this does not count the often astronomical charges of recruitment and manning agencies.

OFW remittances are equivalent to 10.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP), one-fifth of the country's gross export earnings, and as seen above, about twice the value of net electronics exports. Remittances have been fueling the robust growth of consumer demand for goods and services, which has been growing at an annual rate of about 5 percent. It is well known that our economic growth has been primarily driven by consumer demand, in contrast to the investment-led growth experienced by our more dynamic neighbors.

It is no exaggeration to say that without the remittances, our economy would have already collapsed from the fiscal crisis we are in the midst of. Indeed, all that is keeping us from an Argentina-type collapse at this time is the robust inflows of foreign exchange from our so-called "unsung heroes" abroad.

Where they are

About one-fourth of the OFWs are seamen, while three-fourths are land-based. Those who are land-based are mostly found in the US, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Malaysia, Australia, United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong. BSP records show that the biggest sources of remittances are the US, Saudi Arabia, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates. Note, however, that the recorded remittances from the US are overstated because remittances coming from elsewhere but coursed through American banks appear in the data as coming from the US. Based on their home provinces, OFWs mostly come from Metro Manila, Southern Tagalog, Ilocos, Central Luzon and Western Visayas.

Sources of growth

OFW remittances surged 25.7 percent in July, and by 22.1 percent for the first seven months of the year, compared to last year's figures. The continued robust growth in remittances can be traced to increased deployment, increasing average incomes and increased reliance on formal banking channels. The 7-month deployment rose by only 5.2 percent from last year's figure, which means that the bigger source of the growth must be coming from the other two factors.

Unfortunately, it is impossible to assess how much of it was due to simple diversion from informal to formal channels, and how much was due to improvement in the average income per worker, and therefore better quality jobs. We do know that both must be coming into play. Banks are competing fiercely to make it increasingly attractive to remit money via formal channels, and they are succeeding. Now it is even possible to send money home via a text message.

We also know that more and more skilled workers are being drawn to work abroad, including ICT professionals, nurses, doctors and teachers. This is an indictment of our leaders' failure to provide a more conducive economic environment for our skilled human resources. But with their remittances, at least it has not become a total loss to the domestic economy.

Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu

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1033sqm	P 3,274,610.00
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2258sqm	P 7,157,860.00

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From page B1

tranche of $75 million to be disbursed in November.

The government is promoting microlending in the country to boost poverty alleviation efforts.

Program loans from multilateral lenders, which are used for the government's budgetary support, are tied to a mutually agreed set of conditions which must be fulfilled before the funds are released.

The finance official said negotiations for the microfinance loan were over and the loan agreement would be signed very soon.

Beltran said the government was still in the thick of negotiations for the much bigger power sector program loan, adding that the loan would likely be tied to the pace of reforms in the sector, such as the privatization of National Power Corp.'s assets.

The ADB had been involved in the power sector reform in the Philippines until a program loan ended in 2002.

Worried over possible power crisis in the country, the multilateral lender has again gave its commitment to help the power sector. The ADB had said it was open to three possible intervention modes to speed up the sector's restructuring.

Aside from a program lending, the ADB is keen on providing investment lending and a guarantee facility, which may come in the form of partial credit guarantee or political risk coverage.

The government could raise P12.6 billion in budgetary support from the initial tranches of the two new program loans from the ADB this year.

Battle of Viagras

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

THE VIAGRA WAR BETWEEN Pfizer and the local United Laboratories that has been bubbling in the regulatory agencies is now spilling over to the mass media and marketing trenches, with Pfizer unsuccessful in blocking Unilab from coming out with a Philippine version of the erectile dysfunction medicine, sildenafil.

According to the grapevine, barring any judicial action from Pfizer, Unilab will launch next week its own Viagra version named "Andros," andro being the Greek word for "man."

Like Viagra, Andros is colored blue; unlike Viagra, Andros is a typical oblong, not diamond-shaped, pill.

And like Viagra, Andros is available in 25, 50 and 100 mg doses.

But unlike Viagra, which costs P500 upwards per pill, Andros will be retailed 60 percent cheaper.

Compared to Cialis and Levitra, Andros will be priced at 50 percent less.

Unilab has already quietly released pre-launch samples of its blue wonder, with specially trained medical representatives boring in on urologists for special briefings.

The packaging and pharmacological pamphlet inside the Andros box, even the scientific discussion, are world-class.

Unless one examines the fine printed address, the Andros could easily be mistaken for an

COCKTALES/ B6

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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 4713, Series of 2005

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Investment Funds	Net Asset Value Per Unit (NAVPU) as of Sept. 22, 2005	as of Sept. 15, 2005
Philamlife Dollar Bond Fund	US $1.0276	US $1.0247
Philamlife Global Bond Fund	US $1.0122	US $1.0115

Fund prices are net of transaction costs. These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 114
Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE
FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN EQUITY FUND, INC.
Registrant

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN EQUITY FUND, INC. the Commission in its meeting of September 2, 2005, resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its One Hundred Million (100,000,000) common shares under the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, subject to the inclusion of the attached Risk Disclosure Statement in the company's final prospectus.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities For Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER within five (5) days thereof.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

September 6, 2005.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

KARL EDWARD INTERNATIONAL, INC.
Enjoy a merry shopping month!
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OCT. 06-9, 2005 10 AM - 8 PM — 2/F The Plaza Bldg, Greenbelt Arcade, Ayala Ctr, Makati City
OCT. 15-16, 2005 9 AM - 7 PM — shop @ the fort 2005 — NBC The NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig
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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
SEC Bldg., EDSA, Greenhills, Mandaluyong City, Metro Manila

SEC-CFD ORDER NO. 115
Series of 2005

IN THE MATTER OF THE :
FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN :
FIXED INCOME FUND, INC. :
Registrant

ORDER

Upon consideration of the Registration Statement and other papers and documents attached thereto filed for and on behalf of **FIRST METRO SAVE & LEARN FIXED INCOME FUND, INC.** the Commission in its meeting of September 2, 2005, resolved to approve the registration of said corporation as an investment company under the Investment Company Act and its Implementing Rules and Regulations and to render effective its Registration Statement covering its Two Hundred Million (200,000,000) common shares under the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, subject to the inclusion of the attached Risk Disclosure Statement in the company's final prospectus.

A Certificate of Permit to Offer Securities For Sale authorizing the sale of said securities is issued with this Order.

Let this ORDER be published at the expense of the corporation once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines within ten (10) days from date hereof. The corporation is hereby directed to furnish the Commission with a copy of the affidavit of publication of this ORDER within five (5) days thereof.

SO ORDERED.

EDSA, Greenhills, City of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

September 6, 2005.

JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

Cocktales

From page B5

American or European import.

It is not immediately clear if, like Viagra, which chose Sen. Bob Dole as its poster boy, Andros will embark on such similar advertising tack.

According to the grapevine, Basic ad agency is handling the twin informational and below-the-line marketing campaigns, reporting to no less than a female Unilab executive heading what has been dubbed inside the country's largest pharmaceutical company as "Project Andros."

Taxing points for Taguig

TAGUIG has been revving up its lower-taxes-than-Makati hype, given the frequent disruptive rallies in the country's financial district and Makati's plan to further increase business taxes despite loud grumbling from the different business chambers.

To back up their claim, Taguig Councilors AP Bartolome and Glenn San Pedro sent a comparative table of taxes imposed by the neighboring cities.

Taguig, for instance, imposes business registrants a flat annual sales tax of P10,500, as against Makati's P10,000 plus 50 percent of one percent of sales over P2 million.

It is also cheaper for banks to do business in Taguig, with its eight percent of one percent of gross receipts tax, as against Makati's 10 percent of one percent.

Concert promoters also like The Fort's wide open spaces and free parking privileges, not to mention the amusement tax of 10 percent of gross receipts, as against Makati's 30 percent.

And it is wiser for owners of delivery vans to have their vehicles based and registered in Taguig, where the annual registration tax is anywhere from P50-100, as against P500/vehicle in Makati.

And to boost the property market in The Fort, Bartolome and San Pedro have introduced a bill to reduce the annual tax on rental of properties like condos to 65 percent of one percent, as against the 75 percent of one percent in Makati.

No less than Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga is said to be supporting the lower rental tax proposal, with Ayala, now also the biggest landlord in The Fort, cheering on the sidelines.

The lower tax on rental income will complement the already existing lower contractors tax in Taguig, at 65 percent of one percent of sales, against the 75 percent of one percent in Makati.

Money-go-round

- CEBU Pacific will take delivery of two more brand-new Airbuses this week, fetched straight from Hamburg by their pilots.
- ZEN, celebrating its 10th anniversary, has ventured into the catering business. The popular Japanese restaurant in Glorietta has also branched out in Clark, encouraged by the growing Korean tourist market.

Heard through the grapevine

THE WAR between Batangas Gov. Armando Sanchez and Vice Gov. Richard Recto is getting personal, with Sanchez lawyer Ferdinand Topacio executing an affidavit to the Ombudsman claiming that it was Sanchez who coughed up the down payment for Recto's Ford E-150 Chateau van.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

POLAR PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION

Las Pinas Business Center, Alabang-Zapote Road, Las Pinas City

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of POLAR PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION will be held at the Italia Country Club, Capitoline Street, BF Resort Village, Talon Dos, Las Pinas City on Monday, 17 October 2005 at 10:00 o'clock A.M.

The Agenda of the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Certification of service of notice and quorum
3. President's Report
4. Approval of the audited consolidated financial statements for the period ended 31 December 2004 contained in the Company's 2004 Annual Report
5. Election of Directors & Independent Directors
6. Appointment of External Auditors
7. General ratification of the acts of the Board of Directors and the management in line with the usual business of the Company from the date of the last annual stockholders' meeting up to the date of the meeting.
8. Approval of the increase in the authorized capital stock of the Company from FOUR BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (Php4,500,000,000.00) divided into FOUR BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION (4,500,000,000) SHARES with par value of ONE PESO (Php1.00) per share to FIVE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (Php5,500,000,000.00) divided into FIVE BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION (5,500,000,000) SHARES with par value of ONE PESO (Php1.00) per share and the corresponding amendment of Article Seventh of the Company's Articles of Incorporation to reflect the said increase in the authorized capital stock.
9. Approval of the subscription and issuance to Household Development Corporation (HDC), Adelfa Properties, Incorporated (API) and Althorp Holdings Incorporated (ALTHORP) of 743,293,328 shares out of the increase in the authorized capital stock of the Corporation in exchange for shares of stock of Crown Asia Properties, Inc. held by HDC, API and ALTHORP.
10. Waiver of the conduct of a rights offering of the 743,293,328 shares to be issued to API, HDC and Althorp out of the capital increase.
11. Other businesses as may properly come before the meeting and at any adjournments thereof.

The Board of Directors has fixed 16 September 2005 as the record date for the determination of stockholders entitled to notice of, and to vote at, said Annual Meeting. Only holders of record of shares of common stock as at the record date will be entitled to vote at said Annual Meeting.

The stock and transfer books of the Company will not be closed.

By order of the Board of Directors.

MA. NALEN SJ. ROSERO-GALANG
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3. Promo period is from July 1, 2005 to Sep. 30, 2005. All trade-ins made within that period are eligible to join the raffle promotion.
4. Deadline for submission of entries is on Sep. 30, 2005, 5:00 pm. Raffle draw will be on Oct. 14, 2005 at 2:00 pm at e-Copy Corp., 5837 Zobel Roxas St., Makati City, witnessed by a DTI representative.
5. Prizes are non-transferable and not convertible to cash.
6. Winners can only win once. If a participant wins more than once, he/she gets the prize with higher value.
7. Names of winners will be published in major newspapers (PDI, Phil. Star, MB). Winners will be notified via registered mail.
8. To claim prize, winners must present the customer's copy of purchase invoice (photocopy not acceptable), valid I. D. with photo, and registered notice. The invoice amount must be fully paid prior to release of prize. Metro Manila winners can claim their prizes from the e-Copy main office located at 5837 Zobel Roxas St., Makati City. Provincial winners, can claim their prizes from the authorized dealer where the winners conducted the *trade-in* transaction.
9. Redemption period shall be within 60 days from the receipt of notification letter.
10. Employees of e-Copy Corp., its authorized dealers and Expert Advertising Counselors, including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified from joining the raffle promo.

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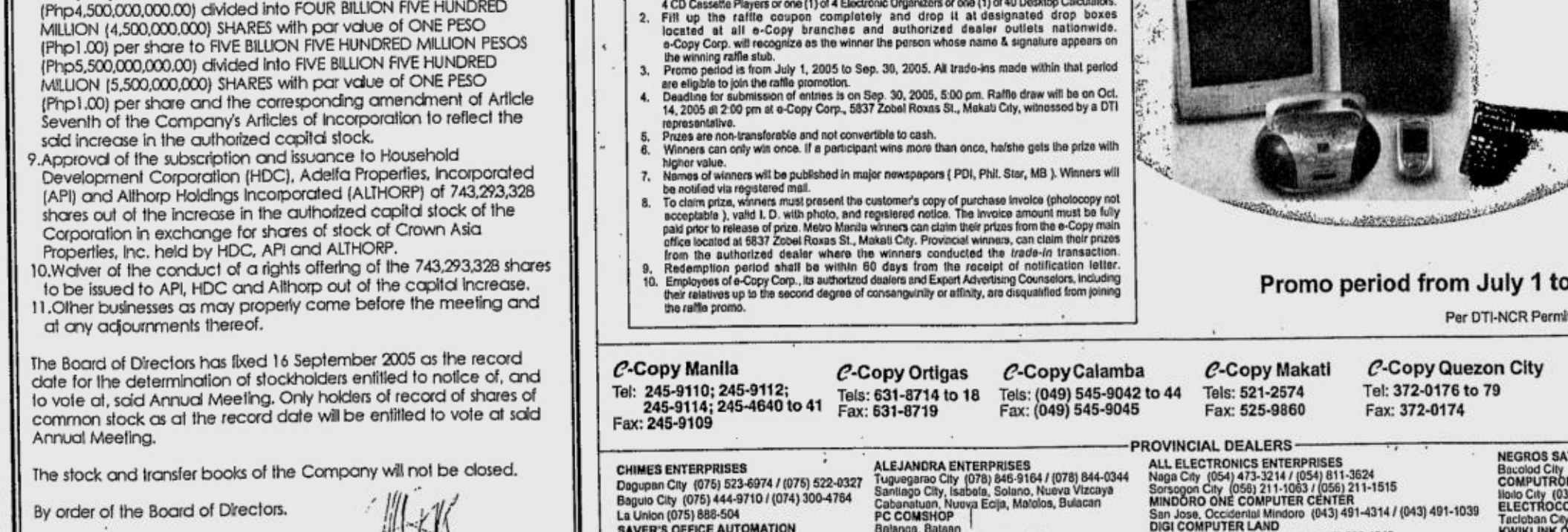

Task force moves to protect RP from spread of bird flu

By Christine A. Gaylican

AS THE THREAT OF A BIRD FLU pandemic is aggravated by the forthcoming seasonal migration of birds to the Philippines, the Department of Agriculture is set to embark on an intensive multi-pronged strategy to prevent the spread of the disease to local shores.

In an interview last Friday, Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban revealed that active infection in migratory birds from Russia and China have been confirmed, posing a new risk to the country.

"The Philippines is in the path of migratory birds traveling from northern countries to escape the winter season," noted Panganiban.

He explained that the avian influenza defense program involves stricter border controls, intensive field surveillance of migratory birds' habitats, education and information campaigns, training of government veterinarians and upgrading of national and regional animal health laboratories.

The Bird Flu Prevention Task Force has began the monitoring of nine out of 20 priority areas frequented by migratory birds, which are known carriers of the virus.

These include the Candaba Swamp in Pampanga; Agusan provinces; Ilocos Norte; the Zamboanga peninsula; Tuguegarao in Cagayan; Cebu; Isabela; Palawan and Victoria in Laguna.

The program will involve the DA, the Department of Health, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Interior and Local Government, Bureau of Customs, Philippine National Police and the private sector led by poultry firms.

SWS survey: Pure hogwash

FROM THE WEBSITE OF SOCIAL WEATHER Stations, I downloaded their six-page third quarter nationwide survey conducted from Aug. 26 to Sept. 5 and released Sept. 10.

The first page is headlined in screaming red: 79 percent proimpeachment, 64 percent pro-resignation, 51 percent pro-People Power if GMA is not impeached. Then other tidbits follow. For example, SWS claims that the "key factor in the negative sentiment is the belief of most Filipinos that GMA's admitted phone calls to a "Comelec official" amounted to instructing him to cheat in the 2004 election, and were not merely meant to protect her votes as she claimed in her June 27 apology."

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

SWS reported that among the majority 57 percent believing that GMA's phone calls gave instructions to cheat, 89 percent were proimpeachment, 80 percent were pro-resignation and 62 percent were pro-People Power.

Among the minority 38 percent accepting that she called the Comelec official only to protect her votes, a large 68 percent were nevertheless proimpeachment, but only 44 percent were pro-resignation, and only 35 percent were pro-People Power.

Only 22 percent said they had much trust in the House of Representatives, whereas 29 percent said they had little trust in it, and 48 percent felt unsure either way. Only 24 percent said they had much trust in the Senate, whereas 25 percent said they had little trust in it, and 50 percent felt unsure either way.

But these findings are not backed up by solid statistics. SWS claims to have used "face-to-face interviews of 1,200 adults divided into random samples of 300 each in Metro Manila, the balance in Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao (sampling error margins of plus or minus 3 percent and plus or minus 6 percent for area percentages)."

In analyzing the statistical data, let us keep in mind that this is supposed to be a nationwide survey. Therefore, even if we load the dice in favor of SWS, and assume that the adult population accounts for half of the total population, 1,200 adults is minuscule compared to 42 million adult Filipinos nationwide. This comes down to one interview for every 35,000 adult Filipinos.

When the interviews are broken down by region, the results are equally invalid. In Metro Manila, 300 interviews is one in 17,000 adult Metro Manilans. In the provinces, the 900 interviews is roughly one interview for every 41,000 adult *provincianos*.

Let us look at it another way. There are 1,500 municipalities (117 cities not counted) in the provinces. Therefore, 900 provincial interviews do not even amount to one interview per municipality. How can the survey be nationwide?

SWS reported, "The higher to socio-economic class, and the higher the schooling, the greater the support for either impeachment or resignation of President Arroyo." But SWS offer no statistics to back up this statement. This looks like a thinly disguised attempt to show that the higher classes are beginning to support the President's removal, one way or the other.

When asked by ANC's Karina David Constantino on national TV, Mahar Mangahas, top man at SWS, confirmed that the survey covered urban and rural respondents.

When you cut up an already minuscule sample into several layers, each layer becomes even more meaningless. And the sum of the parts does not equal the whole.

No matter how you cut it, the SWS survey is pure unadulterated hogwash.

The survey looks like what we engineers derisively call a table survey, as opposed to a field survey. A field survey is when you dig out your statistics in the heat of the noonday sun. A table survey is when you pull statistics out of a hat and shuffle them around on your table in the cool comfort of your air-conditioned office.

There has to be a way to stop these surveys from being foisted on the public. A law to regulate public opinion surveys is long overdue.

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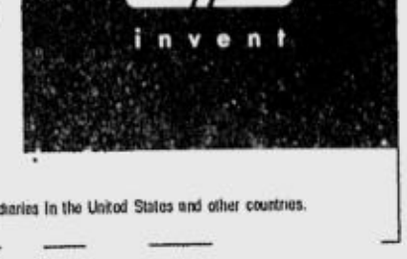

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

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Acquisitions are about customers: Oracle president

By Leo Magno

SAN FRANCISCO—CHARLES Phillips, president of Oracle Corp. which is buying Siebel Systems for $5.8 billion, said here that the significance of acquiring rival companies lies in getting their customer base.

At Oracle's annual user conference, Phillips confirmed comments from rival software makers SAP AG of Germany and Microsoft Corp. that Oracle is buying companies to get their customer base and thus a bigger share of the market.

"What we're actually acquiring are customers and technology. You can't replace the customer base and technology of someone who's been automating banking processes for the last 10 years," he said, in obvious reference to banking solutions firm I-flex of India of which Oracle bought a controlling stake for $650 million.

Oracle has been on an acquisition binge. Phillips said the company has bought nine companies in the last six months. Aside from I-flex and customer relationship management (CRM) software maker Siebel, the acquired companies include PeopleSoft which Oracle bought for $10.3 billion, Retek Inc. which Oracle bought for $630 million, Times Ten, identity and security management software maker Oblix, enterprise search specialist TripleHop Technologies, content integrator Context Media and retail pricing specialist ProfitLogic. Oracle also took control of JD Edwards when it bought PeopleSoft.

A day after Phillips' remark, Oracle bought another company, G-Log, a provider of logistics and transportation management software.

The Siebel deal, announced September 12 and is expected to be consummated in early 2006, will give Oracle access to the CRM maker's 3.4 million users from 4,000 companies and makes Oracle the biggest player in the CRM software market. The 4,000 customers will be added to the 257,000 companies currently using software from Oracle, which registered $11.8 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2005 which ended May 31.

Analysts here said acquiring so many companies in such a short time frame is risky especially when it comes to absorbing employees worldwide and integrating the different technologies they make.

On the comment about employee absorption, Phillips said: "You have to keep in mind that in the case of PeopleSoft and Siebel, a number of people there used to work for or are partners of Oracle. So it's usually just a reunion. It's not as dramatic as it's portrayed from the outside."

With its recent acquisitions, Oracle now has about 50,000 employees in 145 countries worldwide.

On technology integration, Phillips said Oracle would leverage on the brands already created by the acquired companies and then an integrated migration path would be offered to existing customers.

"We have Project Fusion that will build a single suite of applications over time at a measured pace," he said. "We will take all Oracle applications and integrate them under the Fusion Architecture."

PHILLIPS

Oracle's Fusion Architecture, formerly known as the Oracle Information Architecture, is a standards-based blueprint that details the linkage between enterprise applications, middleware and grid technologies. Oracle plans to integrate all its acquired software solutions into this new architecture. A similar architecture called NetWeaver is being pushed by rival SAP.

The problem is, the two biggest enterprise applications maker—SAP and Oracle—will become even more polarized once they build software around their own different architectures. As consolidation continues in the industry, Oracle and SAP are seen to remain as the last two standing, with Microsoft a far third in the enterprise applications and architecture space.

Rivals are quick to decry Oracle's acquisition of competitors and their user base in an effort to trounce SAP. Oracle is even giving incentives to customers willing to switch from Oracle to SAP, a program which, said Phillips, has generated about 1,000 inquiries from SAP clients. SAP lost to Oracle in the bidding war for Retek in April.

Marc Benioff, CEO of Siebel rival and online CRM software maker Salesforce.com, issued a statement about Oracle's acquisition of Siebel.

"Oracle put Siebel investors out of their misery. Oracle's strategy is simple. Instead of innovating, buy as much installed software as possible, call it all Oracle Fusion, and make sure it all uses Oracle's database. Now, the same thing that happened to PeopleSoft will happen to Siebel—it will die."

To allay the fears of obsolescence of Siebel, PeopleSoft, JD Edwards and other software from acquired companies, Phillips said Oracle is offering lifetime support for all new and existing Oracle applications, including those gained through acquisition.

"We want to assure our customers that their investments will be protected," he said. "As long as they are using our applications, there will be some level of support."

A customer from the Philippines who admitted being concerned about Oracle's buyout of PeopleSoft and JD Edwards saw the lifetime

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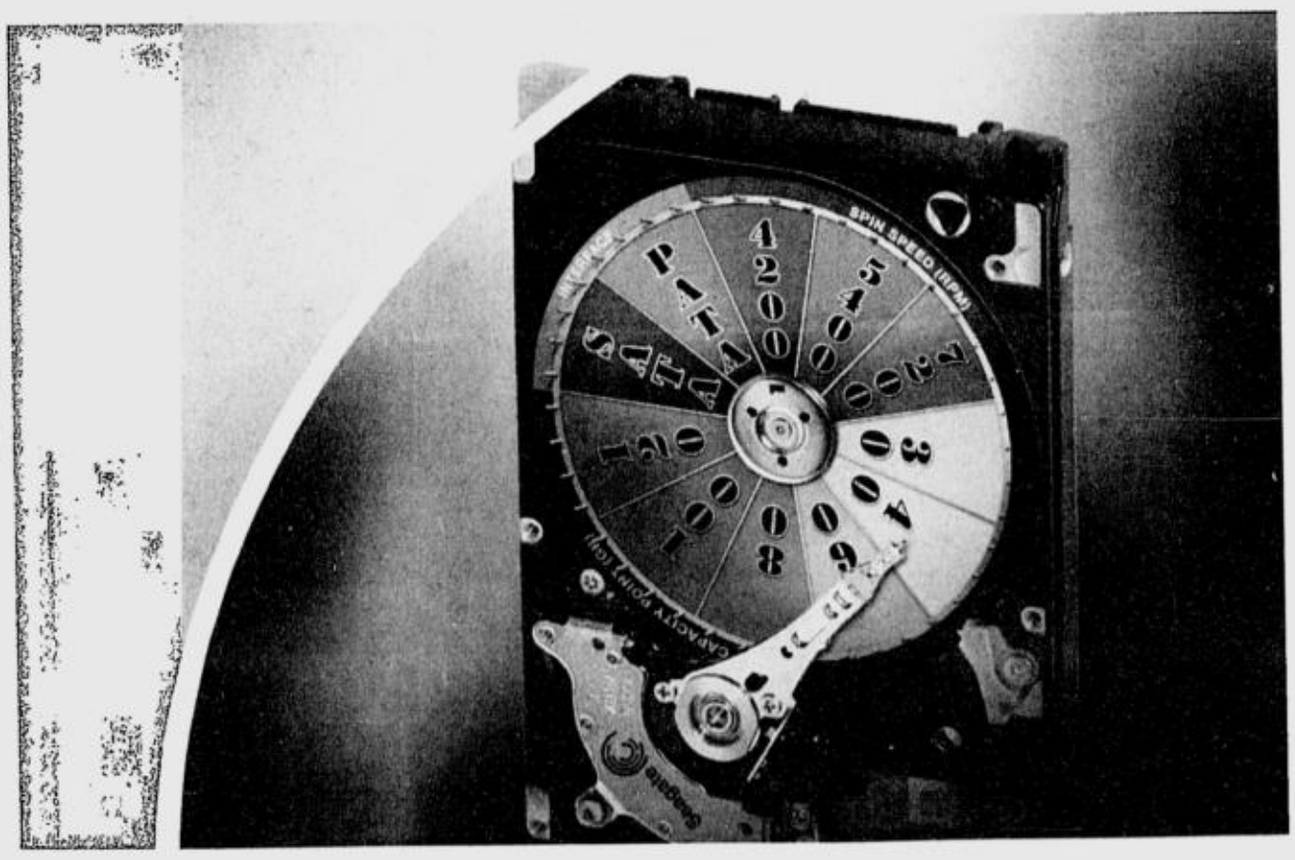

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No large buyout plans after Siebel, says Ellison

By Leo Magno

SAN FRANCISCO—THERE ARE NO LARGE strategic acquisitions in the pipeline for Oracle Corp. after announcing plans to buy Siebel Systems Inc., said the company's CEO, Larry Ellison.

"We really don't have another large acquisition in mind," Ellison said at Oracle's annual user conference here.

The Siebel acquisition was announced September 12 and is expected to be consummated in early 2006, subject to regulatory approval. Meanwhile, Ellison said the transition of previously acquired companies is proceeding smoothly.

"Customers got comfortable after we bought PeopleSoft and we've been focusing on supporting them," he said.

After a bitter 18-month takeover battle, Oracle in January this year took control of PeopleSoft after receiving 97 percent of PeopleSoft shares in its tender offer. The deal was worth $10.3 billion. Oracle is now offering $5.8 billion for Siebel.

ELLISON

Oracle has acquired nine companies in the last six months.

Ellison also stressed that, despite the different code bases of the software companies the company has bought, it will make its Fusion Middleware with "hot-pluggable" Java and Java-related components.

Middleware consists of software agents acting as an intermediary between application components.

"We are basing our software on open standards so customers will be given a choice, so you can plug in your applications and pick middleware components based on price or preference," he said.

This, said Ellison, preserves the existing investment a company has made on non-Oracle applications and components. The same would be true for any software company Oracle would buy in the future as it integrates its applications under Project Fusion.

Ellison added that Oracle is offering lifetime support for new and existing applications, including those of the acquired companies and companies Oracle plans to buy in the future.

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Cost-efficient power changing chip battle

By Leo Magno

SAN FRANCISCO—THE COMPUTER industry has reached a paradigm shift where the race for processor speed has changed into one of cost-efficient and environmentally sound computing power, according to the CEOs of two of the biggest players in the industry.

Intel Corp. president and CEO Paul Otellini and Sun Microsystems Inc. chairman and CEO Scott McNealy on separate occasions acknowledged this change. Intel and Sun are competitors in the microprocessor platform. Intel, the world's biggest semiconductor maker, manufactures CISC-based chips on the x86 platform, while Sun has RISC-based chips on its own Sparc platform which the company co-manufactures with Fujitsu.

"We have reached an inflection point in the industry where the focus of processor manufacture has shifted from the gigahertz race to optimizing power and performance," said Otellini in a keynote speech delivered at the annual user conference of Oracle Corp.

"Inflection point" is a term popularized by former Intel chairman Andrew Grove in his book "Only the Paranoid Survives," describing a paradigm shift or a point which potentially alters an entire industry, the same way the computer industry was forever changed by the Internet inflection point and the automobile industry was forever changed by mass production.

"A few years ago we decided to focus on performance-per-watt instead of making chips in the 10-gigahertz range," said Otellini. "We could have done that, based on Moore's Law. We could have produced such a chip by 2010 but it would have run in excess of 150 watts and that would have been untenable."

The computer industry has long clamored for manufacturers' attention on power-performance-wattage as faster processors raise the issue of heat emissions and high energy consumption. With such an issue, problems of battery life, mobility, cooling and electricity costs arise.

"If you think we have problems on global warming, ask everyone to stop powering up their Intel-based computers," said Sun's McNealy in an earlier interview. "Their chips emit so much heat that it contributes to global warming. It's so hot we all better move up to a mountaintop because the ice caps would melt."

McNealy claims today's Intel-based computers work close to 200 watts of power, while Sun's own Sunray thin clients work at a mere 15-30 watts.

"One of our strategies moving forward is to address the power issue because it would have an eco-positive impact," McNealy said.

Sun is doing this, McNealy said, with its upcoming multi-core, multi-threaded chips, starting with the 64-bit Niagara which would work on 2 watts per thread against Intel's Xeon processor at 70 watts per thread, according to McNealy.

Intel is also on the 64-bit, multi-core, multi-threaded path. Otellini said it would come out with power-optimized chips in 2006, starting with Woodcrest on the server side, Conroe on the desktop side and Merom for mobile computers.

"Power-performance and wattage issues will be addressed by multi-core processors," Otellini said. "By the third quarter of 2006, Intel will be shipping more multi-core processors than single-core processors."

Intel plans to ship more than 60 million dual-core processors within the next 18 months and has over 10 quad-core-and-above projects in the pipeline.

"With this new computing era upon us, we've decided that our next-generation micro-architectures would be power-optimized instead of engaging in the speed race," the Intel chief said, in obvious reference to gigahertz races it has had in the past with AMD, a rival on the x86 platform.

The x86 and SPARC platforms of Intel and Sun, both based in the Silicon Valley area, are the last two vying for dominance in the computer microprocessor platform. Other platforms like the PowerPC architecture of IBM Corp. are slowly fading. Apple Computer Inc., whose computers used to run on PowerPC, in June announced that it would start making its Macintosh computers based on Intel's platform.

"I would argue that it's all over but the shouting," said McNealy. "There are now only two processor platforms fighting it out on the planet, Intel's and Sun's. That fight will move around the power-performance issue."

Acquisitions are about customers. . .

From page B-8

support plan as a welcome announcement.

"We were concerned that we might be forced to change to an Oracle product," said Allen Bacallan, director for Management Information Systems of General Milling Corp. "We didn't feel that when PeopleSoft bought JD Edwards. We were not concerned as we were when Oracle bought PeopleSoft."

General Milling has been an end-to-end customer of JD Edwards running on Sun Microsystems in five locations since April 2000, from manufacturing to finance to procurement and inventory and the rest of the suite.

"The anxiety died when Oracle announced Project Fusion and lifetime support," said Bacallan, who headed the Asian chapter of the JD Edwards users group from 2002 to 2004. "It's positive in the sense that there would be no easing out of our JD Edwards installed base."

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Superfriend Holdings, Inc. leased from **UCPB** the **Manila Plaza Mall** beginning January 1, 2002, but the lease subsequently expired on December 31, 2003 without being renewed or extended by **UCPB**.

For expiration of the lease, non-payment of rentals and for the refusal of **Superfriend Holdings, Inc.** to vacate **Manila Plaza Mall, UCPB** had filed an unlawful detainer case against **Superfriend Holdings, Inc.,** which is now pending with the Metropolitan Trial Court of Makati, Branch 65.

UCPB has not authorized any person, corporation or entity to lease, sub-lease or otherwise make use of the **Manila Plaza Mall**, or any portion thereof, after the expiration of the aforementioned lease.

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Gokongwei raises stake in UIC

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JG SUMMIT HOLDINGS INC. HAS INCREASED its stake in Singapore-listed property firm United Industrial Corp. (UIC) to 29.97 percent by buying an additional 2.5 million shares, it said in a disclosure to the Stock Exchange of Singapore.

Company officials declined to comment, however, on whether the flagship company of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. will takeover UIC.

News wire reports said that under Singapore rules, parties that acquire at least 30 percent of a listed firm's outstanding shares are required to buy the rest of the company.

Company representatives also refused to take calls by INQUIRER for further clarification.

In a notice filed last Sept.21, Gokongwei, through Telegraph Development Ltd., raised his holdings in UIC to 29.97 percent or 412.83 million shares from 29.783 percent, or 410.26 million.

In May 1999, JG Summit purchased 23 percent of UIC, a conglomerate with interests in real estate through its controlling interest in Singapore Land, one of the biggest office developers in Singapore's central business district.

UIC was incorporated in July 1963, dealing mainly in detergents and toiletries. It became a publicly traded firm in June 1969.

Yuchengcos may cut RCBC stake

RIZAL COMMERCIAL BANKING CORP. PLANS to beef up its capital by issuing preferred shares to new investors and eventually diluting the Yuchengco family's stake to 51 percent from 60 percent.

RCBC, which is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, has sought authority from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and the Securities and Exchange Commission to sell new shares.

"We would like [the securities] to have long maturity but [with a] redeemable [feature] so it will become tier 1 capital," said RCBC vice chair Cesar E.A. Virata.

"I don't know how much will be approved by the board and shareholders, but before we issued P2 billion [in preferred shares] that was redeemed already," he said.

RCBC issued 200 million floating rate, cumulative, non-convertible, redeemable preferred shares from its unissued authorized capital stock in April 1999. The shares worth P2 billion were redeemed after five years.

"In turn, we issued subordinated senior notes," Virata said.

The bank raised $150 million from the issuance of senior notes earlier this year.

"As far as the Yuchengcos are concerned, they can be diluted up to 51 from 60 percent," he said.

He added that some investment bankers are going around trying to broker buy-in deals, noting high interest by foreign investors in Philippine banks.

"One way to dilute [controlling shareholders] in order to increase capital is to sell new shares," he said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of September 26, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,100,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,100,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Celatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Celatagan Golf Club "B"	-	50,000
Camp John Hay	170,000	150,000
Canlubang	500,000	450,000
Canyon Woods	130,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	-	1,300,000
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	-
Club Filipino	140,000	90,000
Eagleridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Forest Hills "A"	110,000	90,000
Forest Hills "B"	200,000	-
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	-
Luisita Golf "A"	350,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	220,000	180,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,175,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	380,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	740,000	650,000
Manila Yacht Club	400,000	350,000
Metroclub "A"	120,000	80,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	430,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	-
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	350,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	160,000	130,000
Rockwell	Please Call	-
Spa & Lodge	580,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,200,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	1,600,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club*	350,000	300,000
Tagaytay Highlands	700,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	630,000	600,000
The Palms Country Club	Please Call	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	200,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,000,000

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Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	550,000	-
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	170,000	140,000
Canlubang Golf	-	450,000
Canyon Woods	120,000	-
Capitol Hills	80,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	400,000	-
Club Filipino	Pls. Call	90,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	180,000/Pls. Call**	150,000/250,000*
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evercrest	65,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	110,000/200,000*	-
Manila Golf Corporate	Pls. Call	11,300,000
Manila Golf Individual	Pls. Call	-
Manila Polo	2,150,000	-
Manila Southwoods A/B*	380,000	650,000*
Makati Sports Club	-	180,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	220,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/Pls. Call*	150,000/250,000**
Puerto Azul	Pls. Call	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
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Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/130,000*/250,000**	120,000*
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Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
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Spa & Lodge	550,000	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	Pls. Call	1,100,000/1,500,000*
Subic Golf	Pls. Call	-
Subic Yacht Club	Pls. Call	-
The Palms Country Club	500,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	Pls. Call	-
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Tagaytay Midlands	Pls. Call	-
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
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Taiwan	Siam Commercial Bank
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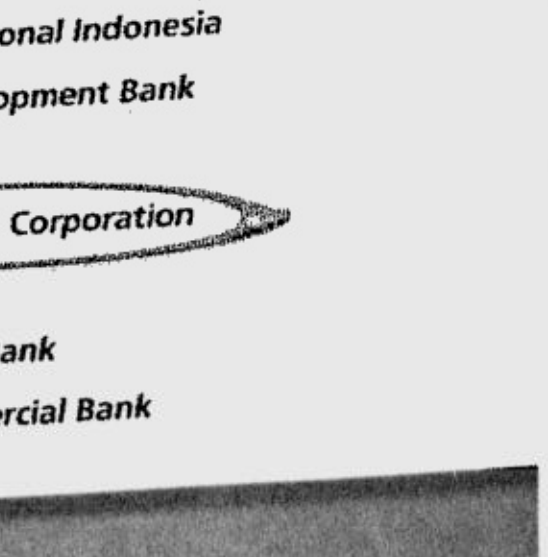

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BANKS					
Banco de oro Univ. Bank	31	31	30.5	30.5	652,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53.5	53.5	52.5	53	282,200
China Banking Corp.	590	645	590	645	3,920
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	500
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	100,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	49.5	49.5	49.5	39,100
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	27.5	27	27.5	113,800
Philippine National Bank	34	34	34	34	900
Phil. Savings Bank	33	34	33	34	4,200
Philippine Trust Co.	55	55	55	55	5,600
Security Bank Corp.	30	30	30	30	9,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	29.5	29.5	1,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	240	250	240	250	520
Manulife Financial Corp.	2820	2825	2820	2820	630
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2085	2085	2070	2070	60
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	21,000
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.97	0.97	2,090,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	775	775	765	770	77,440
Ipeople Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	35,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	300,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.74	1.74	20,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	941,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1630	1640	1630	1635	59,110
Ivantage Corp.	0.56	0.56	0.56	0.56	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.015	0.016	0.015	0.016	6,200,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	14	1,600
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	21.75	21.5	21.5	326,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.1	6.1	6	6	13,946,000
Petron Corp.	3.25	3.35	3.25	3.3	2,376,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1	1	1	1	100,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	162,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	560,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	9	9	9	9	574,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	210,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	2,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	460,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.9	2.95	726,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1,000,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	31	31	6,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36	36.5	35.5	36	366,900
San Miguel Corp. A	65.5	65.5	65.5	65.5	41,100
San Miguel Corp. B	94	94	93.5	93.5	230,200
Universal Robina Corp.	17.25	17.25	17.25	17.25	8,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.007	0.0075	0.0065	0.0075	68,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	297.5	290	292.5	95,640
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	330,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	31,171,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	4,100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.06	2.06	2.06	2.06	191,000
APC Group Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	250,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.72	0.7	0.7	330,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.5	9.5	9.5	9.5	50,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.145	0.145	0.145	0.145	800,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	2,579,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.225	0.225	650,000
CADP Group Corp.	1	1	1	1	17,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.27	0.27	0.25	0.26	7,250,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.35	3.6	3.35	3.6	4,370,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	222,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	41	41.5	717,700
House Of Investments Inc.	0.93	0.93	0.91	0.91	40,000
Ionics Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.85	3.6	3.8	1,620,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.36	1.36	377,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.31	0.32	8,170,000
Polar Property Holdings	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	3,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.21	0.205	0.205	410,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.06	1.12	1.02	1.1	360,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	203	208	203	206	114,680
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	1,100,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	150,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.125	0.125	1,020,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	20,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.28	1.34	1.28	1.34	5,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.74	0.74	150,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	100,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.94	0.94	0.94	0.94	950,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	100,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.54	1.56	1,210,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	510,000
Philippine Racing Club	3	3	3	3	14,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	299,500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10	10	10	10	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref.) SeneS U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT 10% Pref Series AA	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,500
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	8	8	8	8	5,000
Far Eastern University	600	600	600	600	4,430
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	7.9	8	7.9	8	7,986,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.93	0.95	0.93	0.93	1,230,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.225	0.225	1,600,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.35	0.36	2,520,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.32	1.34	784,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	310,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	80,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	1,470,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	250,000
SM Development Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	22,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	5,007,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.98	1.06	0.96	1.06	670,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	0.99	1.08	0.99	1.08	420,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	7,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.2	6.2	5.9	6.1	2,300,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	2,470,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	710,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	47,700,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	29,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	13,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	2,130,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	28.5	28.5	28	28	374,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	250,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	6,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	23,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	88,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	430,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.5	4.5	4.4	4.4	158,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	50,000

CURRENCIES

September 23, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.823045	1.000000	56.2810
Japan	Yen	0.007366	0.008950	0.5037
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473909	1.790800	100.7880
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106060	0.128863	7.2525
Switzerland	Franc	0.643255	0.781555	43.9867
Canada	Dollar	0.703097	0.854263	48.0788
Singapore	Dollar	0.489529	0.594778	33.4747
Australia	Dollar	0.627751	0.762718	42.9265
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.183202	2.652590	149.2904
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219444	0.266624	15.0059
Brunei	Dollar	0.488077	0.593014	33.3754
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000081	0.000098	0.0055
Thailand	Baht	0.020054	0.024366	1.3713
UAE	Dirham	0.224105	0.272287	15.3246
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.215000	68.3814
Argentina	Peso	0.282610	0.343371	19.3253
Brazil	Real	0.360700	0.438251	24.6652
Denmark	Kroner	0.134040	0.162858	9.1658
India	Rupee	0.018791	0.022831	1.2850
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218372	0.265322	14.9326
Mexico	New Peso	0.075961	0.092293	5.1943
New Zealand	Dollar	0.571758	0.694686	39.0976
South Africa	Rand	0.129747	0.157642	8.8722
Korea	Won	0.000801	0.000973	0.0548
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024869	0.030216	1.7006

Window dressing seen ...

From page B1

lite TV, gains on Wall Street and on bets that its crown jewel, Smart Communications Inc., may post better third-quarter profits backed by subscriber growth.

Grace Cerdenia at 2TradeAsia.Com meanwhile said the stock market drew optimism from the government's P1.75-billion budget surplus for the month of August, its third monthly surplus for the year.

Mining stocks registered the biggest week-on-week gain of 4.1 percent, as commodity traders expected higher gold prices at $500 an ounce.

Construction firm DMCI Holdings Inc. surged 20 percent last week to P3.60 over wagers it would be a formidable contender for Maynilad Water Services Inc.

"DMCI is expecting a banner year given the sale of part of its stake in Semirara this year. The sale generated P2 billion for DMCI, bringing a 20-fold increase in its first semester net income to P2.4 billion. Exclusive of the gains, DMCI's profit improved four times over year-ago level given the strong performance of Semirara due to high coal prices from last year," Vistan said in his report. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

10 foreign, local groups seen vying for PNOC-EC

By Abigail L. Ho

MORE THAN 10 GROUPS, INCLUDING foreign energy firms and local conglomerates, are keen on participating in the privatization of the Philippine National Oil Co. Energy Development Corp.

An INQUIRER source said major energy sector players Marubeni Corp., Mitsui Corp., Sumitomo Corp., Noble Energy, China Light and Power Corp. and AES Corp. were interested in becoming a strategic investor in PNOC-EDC.

Local firms Ayala Corp., Aboitiz Equity Ventures, Trans-Asia Oil and Energy Development Corp. and Salcon Power Corp. had also expressed their intent to join the PNOC-EDC privatization process, the source said.

Certain financial institutions are also expected to join the PNOC-EC bidding, including Italy's Enel, Iceland's Enex, the International Finance Corp. and the AIG Group, the source added.

PNOC-EDC vice president Agnes de Jesus said during the recently concluded PowerTrends conference that seven banks, five local and two international, were interested in participating in the privatization process.

She said PNOC-EDC was studying two options for privatization. Under the first option are three variants.

The first variant follows the Petron Corp. model, where 40 percent of the company will be offered to the private sector and 20 percent will be sold to the public via an initial public offering. The other 40 percent will remain with PNOC-EDC.

The second variant, De Jesus said, entailed selling more than 50 percent, while the third involved full privatization.

Under the second option, she said PNOC-EDC would enter into a long-term steam sales agreement with National Power Corp. This will make both the PNOC unit and Napocor's power plants, that draw fuel supply from the former's steam fields, more attractive to prospective investors.

PLDT chief sees strong Q3 profits despite weak economy

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE TELEphone Co. expects third quarter profits to be as robust as the previous quarter despite rising inflation that has shrunk consumers' wallets, slowing subscriber take-up and increasingly fierce competition.

"Third quarter figures are trending very well. It looks like it would be in the vicinity of second quarter performance for [our] core earnings, based on July and August numbers," said PLDT president Napoleon Nazareno in an interview.

Asked if the third quarter could surpass the second quarter core profit of P8 billion, Nazareno said it would depend on whether numbers for September would also trend favorably.

"We will definitely achieve our P29-billion core profit guidance for the year," he said.

The PLDT chief added that he has yet to see the complete picture of how the peso exchange rate against the US dollar and the Japanese yen would influence non-recurring gains.

The movement of the peso against the yen is important for Pilipino Telephone Corp., a subsidiary of PLDT's wholly-owned Smart Communications Inc.

A third of Piltel's debts, which are now owed to Smart, are yen-dominated, while the rest are in US dollars.

Gov't raising ...

From page B1

on the terminal, which was estimated to cost $50 million.

"The government prefers to borrow in pesos to avoid currency risks. We are looking at a P16-billion to P20-billion in club loan. A bond issue is also being considered," David said in an interview.

The government took over Naia 3 in December 2004 but it could not operate the terminal until Philippine International Air Terminals Co. or Piatco was reimbursed of the investments it made in building the facility.

DBP's move is deemed as a strong indication of the government's intention to operate the new terminal once its petition for expropriation is finally approved by the court.

Manila Hotel Corp., which now controls Piatco, and Asia's Emerging Dragon Corp. of Lucio Tan are both claiming the right to operate Naia 3.

However, Trade Secretary Peter Favila, who is a member of the inter-agency team tasked to resolve the Naia 3 impasse, said the government had not received any formal offer from either Manila Hotel or AEDC.

"As far as the government is concerned, it will operate Naia 3 after paying Piatco as mandated by the Supreme Court," Favila told the INQUIRER during a briefing Wednesday night.

As for the loan, David said the DBP and the four other member-banks of the syndicate it was forming would lend the money to the Manila International Airport Authority, operator of the Naia terminals.

"We are talking with the officials of MIAA. We want to help expedite the opening of the airport," said David.

The banks are studying the cash flow of the MIAA to see if it has the capacity to pay the 10-year loan, added David.

The airport authority reported a net income of P472 million in the first seven months, up 34 percent from year-ago level and 58 percent more than its P299-million target for the period.

The MIAA generates about P5.4 billion in revenue yearly. While the agency's revenue flow has been constant, expenditures have been going up mainly due to the upgrading of airport facilities, particularly the security system.

"We want to do it as soon as possible and especially while the market is liquid," said the DBP president.

The club loan being arranged by the DBP will take the place of the bond issue planned by the MIAA early this year.

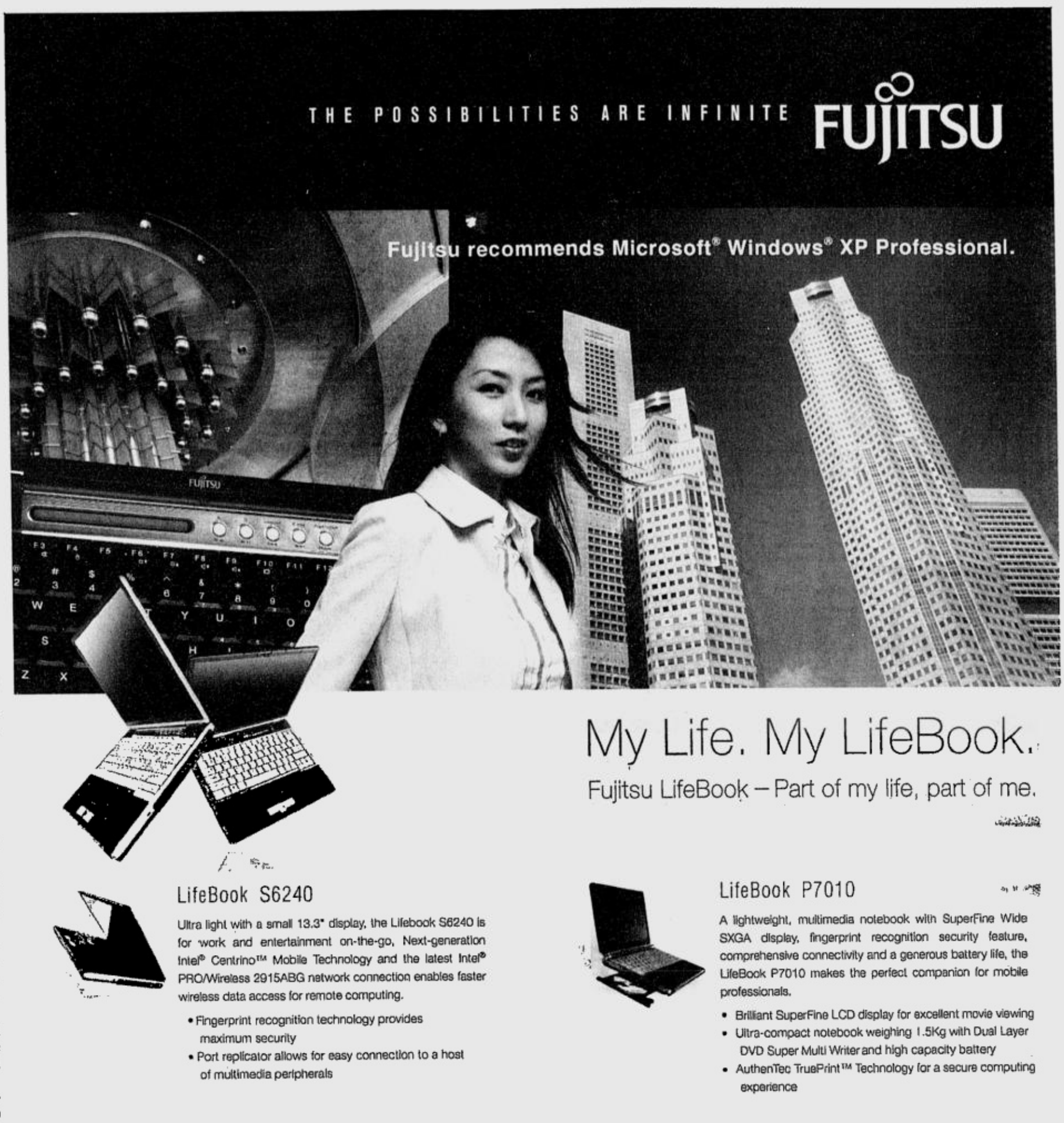
The airport authority had asked the finance department in the first quarter to help it float about $300 million in three-year bonds. Of that amount, about $100 million would have been in pesos.

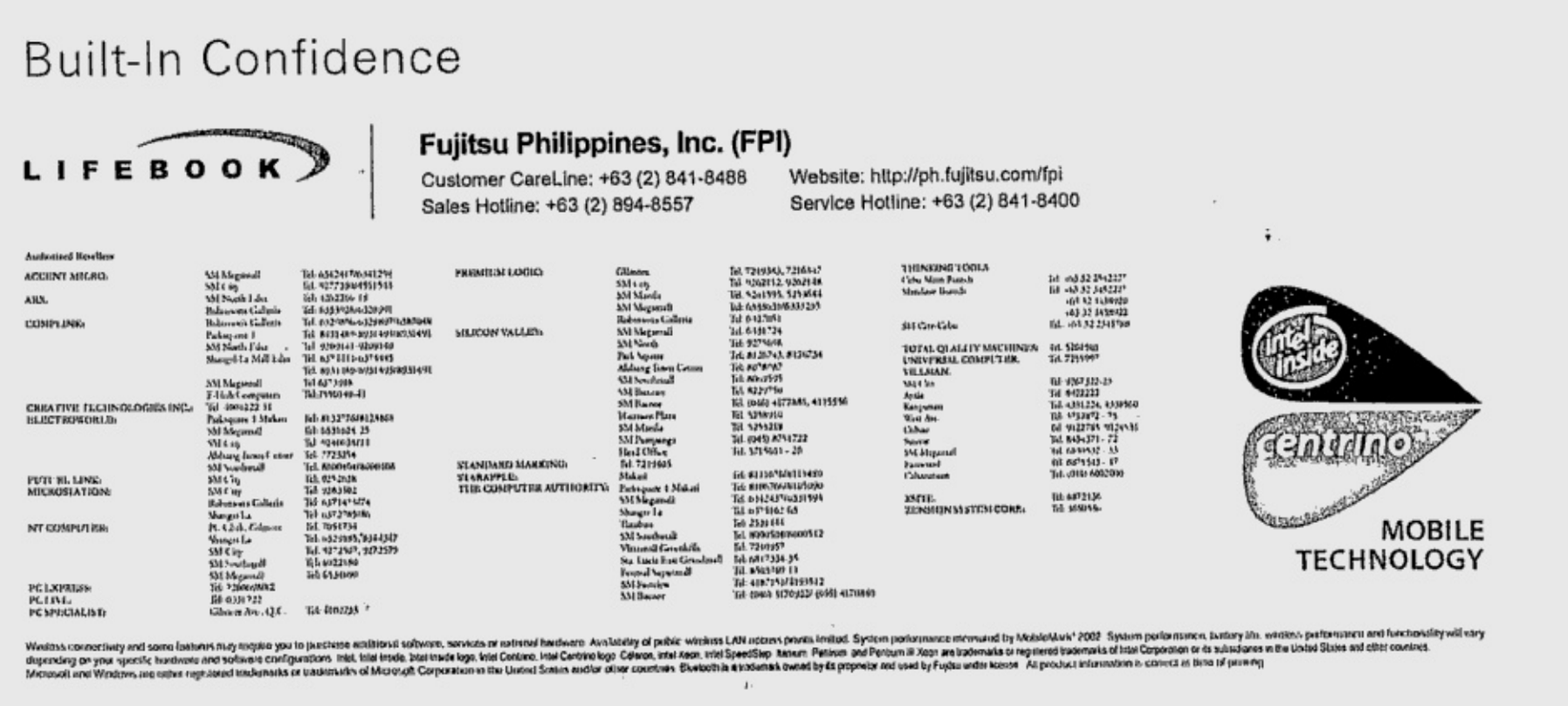
David said the DBP would have to "syndicate" the funding requirement of the government so other banks would be able to help raise the money. The required amount, he said, would be too much for the state-owned bank to finance by itself.

The DBP, he said, had started talking with potential partners for the loan syndication.

"We are preparing the papers necessary for the debt exercise. We want to do the loan as soon as possible," he said.

The new terminal was built to replace Naia 1, which was more than two decades old. Naia Terminal 3 is designed to handle 28 aircraft at any given time and 13 million passengers a year.





People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

Globe G-Cash wins MCEA Gold for new service campaign

AS THE COUNTRY'S ONLY CASHLESS and cardless m-commerce service to date, G-Cash has transformed the ubiquitous mobile phone into a mobile wallet by facilitating access to common daily commercial transactions: purchases and payments, international and domestic remittance, phone-to-phone mobile currency transfer, and reloading prepaid phone credits. Indeed, by utilizing text as a medium for commerce, G-Cash has empowered traditionally disenfranchised individuals without access to bank accounts or credit cards, equipped OFWs with a swift and secure means of supporting their families back home, and created an economic ecosystem powered by the retail and financial transactions of Globe and Touch Mobile's combined 14-million strong subscriber base, thus providing a platform for the mass adoption of m-commerce.

Such life-enhancing achievements have not gone unnoticed. Since it was launched in October 2004, G-Cash has received a number of international accolades; namely, the GSM Association Award for Best Mobile Messaging Service in February, 2005, the Mobile Messaging Award and Asian MobileNews Award for Most Innovative Operator, both in June 2005. The public's response has been equally receptive, with more than 1 million subscribers currently registered. G-Cash international remittance is currently in 15 countries, with more than 200 outlets. Locally, G-Cash has more than 3,000 partners and outlets.

While driven by the relevance and ease of use of its functionalities, the success of a breakthrough service such as G-Cash is also dependent on the effectiveness of its marketing campaign. At the recently concluded Marketing Communications Effectiveness Awards given out by The University of Asia and the Pacific's Institute of Communication and BusinessWorld, the G-Cash campaign executed by Harrison Communications, was awarded the Gold prize in the Most Effective New Service Introduction category. The MCEA is the first award giving body in the country to equally honor marketing communications campaigns on creative merit and social responsibility.

According to Globe marketing manager for m-commerce Justine Camacho-Tajonera, educating and making the public aware about the myriad possibilities of m-commerce was a key objective of the G-Cash campaign. "[Globe] views G-Cash not as a technological triumph but as an empowering financial and commercial tool for the ordinary Filipino, and we wanted a campaign that would encourage the public to try the service and see how it would benefit them," said Tajonera.

A distinct feature of the G-Cash campaign is its multi-dimensional approach, which identified the service's main benefits for its three key publics: the consumer, trade and merchant partner, and investor. As such, various components of the campaign focused on positioning G-Cash as a life-changing service, a new revenue stream and an innovative economic model. The campaign was also effective in showcasing the service's philanthropic possibilities, with ad executions specifically directed at promoting the various partnerships between G-Cash and non-government organizations and other charitable foundations like Children's Hour and the Philippine National Red Cross.

Tajonera acknowledges the impact of effective marketing communications on the successful launch of G-Cash, noting that Globe's partner agencies significantly contributed to the crafting and execution of the key messages, education and trial programs, and launch promotions. "We build on each other's strengths and business tools to make our products and services more meaningful to the end-consumer," she adds.

The mobile public's receptive response towards G-Cash and other service innovations lies testament to the effectiveness of Globe's strategic segment marketing, says Head of M-Commerce Marketing Patricia Tan. "[Globe's] solid relationship with our varied subscriber base enables us to develop products and services that anticipate their stated and unexpressed needs," concludes Tan.

G-CASH gains gold at 1st annual MCEA awards. Accepting the award for G-Cash were (from left): Globe head of M-commerce data services Shydee Buizon-Tiambeng , M-Commerce marketing manager Justine Camacho-Tajonera, Maricel Pangilinan-Arenas- co-managing partner, Harrison Communications Inc, and Dino Laurena, general manager Harrison Communications Inc.

2nd Candid Jazz Int'l at The Podium

AFTER THE SUCCESS OF ITS FIRST Jazz Festival last year, Candid Records Philippines will present a week of great jazz performances at the 2nd Candid Jazz International Festival at The Podium's Chill Area from Oct. 3 to 7. All shows begin at 7 p.m. and are open to the public.

A take-off from the program of high-profile and emerging artists from around the globe first launched by Candid Records in 1999 that has since become one of United Kingdom's most formidable jazz traditions, the event at The Podium will similarly thrill local jazz aficionados.

The 2nd Candid Jazz International Festival's lineup features the label's international and local artists that showcase the genre's unique diversity. Topbilling the festival are American jazz wonder Catherine Tuttle as well as some of the Philippines' top jazz artists Mon David, Isha, Johnny Alegre Affinity, and Mishka Adams.

The festival begins with a performance by the exceptionally talented Mon David on Oct. 3. Mon will launch his newest album "Life & Times" under Candid's new sub-label Isla together with bassist Colby de la Calzada, saxophonist Mike Guevarra, and drummer Jorge San Jose. Mallgoers will be treated to songs from this spectacular 14-track album, which is a cocktail of various musical genres-ballads, sambas, traditional folk songs-all with a playful modern twist and fascinating off-beat creations that celebrate life, memories, and inspiration.

The spotlight turns to singer, songwriter and pianist Isha on Oct. 4, as she performs songs from her all-OPM CD-lite-theme songs from a new Yul Servo film, plus tracks from her successful debut album "Time and Again". Often compared to Tori Amos and Sarah McLachlan, the music of this recent Awit Awards nominee is an intricate tapestry woven with impeccable music talent, moving melodies and lyrics, and lots of soul.

Not to be missed is the performance of Johnny Alegre Affinity, Manila's jazz superbrand, on Oct. 5. This progressive jazz quintet consists of some of the country's finest jazz instrumentalists united by a passion for jazz-Johnny Alegre on guitar, Tots Tolentino on saxophone, Elhmir Saison on keyboards, Colby de la Calzada on bass, and Koko Bermejo on drums. Fresh from their recent performance in London, audiences are in for a sonically and visually engaging evening as they perform songs from their album "Jazzhound."

Mallgoers will have the rare opportunity to watch 18-year-old American singer, pianist, and songwriter Catherine Tuttle in a performance on Oct. 6. US critics have raved at her debut album, which features 12 original songs, as well as her "shockingly adult voice that merges the soulful yearning voice of Dusty Springfield with Tori Amos' injured emotionalism. Her style is nothing short of brilliant for a young talented musician."

Capping the festival is a performance by Mishka Adams and the Blue Echoes on Oct. 7. Fresh from her two-day sold out performance in Soho, London, and the successful European release of her album "God Bless the Child", this talented British-Filipina will take audiences on a unique jazz journey. Often compared to the legendary vocalists of jazz's Golden Era, Mishka breathes new life to such classics like "Autumn Leaves" and "Change Partners" to her haunting rendition of Judy Garland's "Somewhere Over the Rainbow". She also uses jazz as a springboard to incorporate world music and African-reggae inspired beats in her original compositions.

The 2nd Candid Jazz International Festival is a project of Candid Records Philippines, in cooperation with The Podium, Smart Communications, Discovery Suites, Crossover 105.1 and Jam 88.3.

RP-French expedition yields rare fauna

A DEEP UNDERWATER EXPEDITION in central Philippines has yielded rare fauna of great scientific significance.

This so-called "Panglao 2005" deep-sea cruise in Bohol Sea was led by French and Filipino scientists and crew who obtained a saw-tooth shark, bivalve Archarax, large polychaete worm Aphrodite, and a good number of specimen from two relatively rare crab families - Retroplmidae and Tymolidae - including spider crabs, among many others.

The detailed result and significance of such discoveries will be revealed by Philippe Bouchet of the National Museum of Natural History (NMNH) of Paris, France during a formal presentation slated at the Bureau of Soils and Water Management in Quezon City at 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Sep. 28.

With Bouchet as co-principal investigator is Ludovina Labe of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources - National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (BFAR-NFRDI).

The deep-water survey was a cooperative research undertaken by the NMNH and the BFAR-NFRDI to take inventory of the deep-water benthic fauna in Bohol Sea, acquire scientific and technical know-how for deep sea exploration, evaluate the relevance of administrative limits of municipal waters, understand the ecological, scientific, utilitarian/economic and cultural values of such organisms, and provide the framework for their conservation and management.

Titled "Panglao Marine Biodiversity Project Phase 3: Survey of the Deep-Water Benthic Fauna of Bohol Sea and Adjacent Waters", the study is a continuation of the long-term Musorstom program that began in 1976 and continued in 1980 and 1985.

The program has since emerged as the most ambitious deep-sea survey in the Indo-Pacific, having been responsible for discovering, naming and describing more than 2,000 new species of aquatic organisms.

The program also covered Panglao 2004, which yielded 1,200 species of decapod crustaceans and 6,000 species of mollusks, many of which were new to science.

By comparison, the total fauna of entire Japan has 1,700 species of decapods and the whole Mediterranean has 2,020 species of mollusks.

Final taxonomic works on all samples will be sent to Musorstom's network of some 200 specialists from 24 countries. The scientific results will be published in the Tropical Deep-Sea Benthos series, an internationally-recognized official publication of the NMNH dedicated to deep-sea expeditions.

Joining the presentation of Panglao 2005 results are French Scientific Attache Claire Crochemore, Agriculture Undersecretary Salvador Salacup, BFAR Director Malcolm Sarmiento Jr, and NFRDI Director Noel Barut.

ARAULLO HS '71 TURNOVER OF TOOLS

The tools committee headed by Ramon Aganan (standing left) Roland Talag (2nd from left) and Claro Estavillo Jr (seated right) are shown with the officers of Araullo High School Class '71 Alumni Association Inc led by its president Willie Monillas (3rd from left). The Association turned over Sep. 1 the last batch of tools to Araullo High School principal Angela Y. Ong and Luz San Juan, vocational department head.

ProductFiles

Slimmers World's new equipment launched

SLIMMERS WORLD INTERNATIONAL, the leading fitness center in the Philippines, has recently launched its Personalized Cardiovascular Entertainment. This new technology by Stex will now enable fitness enthusiasts to watch their favorite programs on flat screen TV as they shed off unwanted fats on the treadmill or transport machines. For details and inquiries, call hotline numbers 887-3532 / 091SLIMMERS (75466377). Shown is Jelyn Laosantos, commercial model and SWI head office executive on Stex 802, using the equipment.

IASCA COMPETITION SET SEP. 28

Tradeshow International Inc, one of the country's biggest and pioneering automotive events specialists, is set to innovate the showcar and transportation circuit with the staging of the first International Sound Quality Challenge (ISQC). Sanctioned by Iasca Worldwide Inc, Tradeshow International is set to bring Iasca officials led by Paul Papadeas (left), Iasca president, and Chris Orblom (right), Iasca director for International operations as part of the panel of judges in this year's ISQC. According to Sophia delos Santos (center), president of Tradeshow International, the ISQC is now a vital part of the Caltex-Delo Sport Truck and Custom Car and Bike Show, which will be held at the SM Megamall from Sep. 28 to Oct. 2. In the ISQC, multiple judges will score the vehicle, thereby eliminating the chances of biased judgment. Two judging teams will be on hand to scrutinize, listen and check the quality of the audio-video set up. Shown are Delos Santos, Papadeas and Orblom during a recent visit to Iasca offices in Florida. For more information on how to join this ground breaking audio event, call Tradeshow International at 671-3122 or 671-8381 to 82.

GSP Geological Festival in Mapua

THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE Philippines (GSP), the accredited professional organization for geology professionals, will be conducting the Geological Festival 2005 (GeoFest 2005) at the School of Earth and Materials Science and Engineering (Emse) of the Mapua Institute of Technology in Intramuros, Manila. GeoFest 2005 is the latest in a series of annual undertakings by the GSP that aims to expose high school students to the various aspects of the science of Geology. Mapua was selected to host this event because of its world-class BS Geology program, which includes Geological, Mining, Metallurgical and Materials Science Engineering. Open to all senior high school students, GeoFest 2005 is aimed this year at promoting and presenting the various career paths of mining and geology as a profession, rather than the technical aspects of geological studies done in past events. GeoFest 2005 will be held from Sep. 28 to 30. Representatives of interested schools can call Emse at 301-0096, or log on to http://geofest2005.mapua.edu.ph

Quarry opportunities near Clark

A NEW ROCK CRUSHING PLANT and quarry, complete with all the legal permits and papers, has recently been set up near Clark Air Base in Pampanga. The rock crusher and quarry has a capacity of 250 to 300 cubic meters per hour of assorted aggregate materials, including washed sand. The quarry site presents a perfect opportunity for big contractors to produce their own aggregate materials, especially those involved with BCDA road-building projects. For more information on the site, and for leasing or joint venture inquiries, call 531-6782, fax 535-9069, or call 0918-9000732.

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MARIKINA

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NOTICE OF LOST

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WALING- WALING BEACH HOTEL BORACAY

(PDI-Sept. 26, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
METRO MANILA

IN THE MATTER OF THE

MOUNT MALARAYAT GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB, INC.

xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on 31 March 2005, an Amended Registration Statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of Mount Malarayat Golf and Country Club, Inc. reflecting therein the following revisions:

Share Type	Number of shares	Original Offer Price	Revised Offer Price
Common Gold	1,228 shares of stock	P750T	P932,741.11/share
Common Silver	1,211 shares of stock	P375T	P466,370.55/share
TOTAL	2,750 shares of stock		

The revised offer price shall cover the remaining balance of One Thousand Two Hundred Eleven (1,211) Common Silver and One Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Eight (1,228) Common Gold shares. The Amended Registration Statement is being filed for purposes of complying with the requirements of the Securities Regulation Code and its Implementing Rules and Regulations. Other substantial amendments include the revision of the project cost and the date of completion of the project.

Said Amended Registration Statement and other papers/documents attached thereto are open to inspection by interested parties during business hours, and copies thereof, photostatic or otherwise, shall be furnished to every party at such reasonable fees as the Commission may prescribe.

(Sgd.) JUSTINA F. CALLANGAN
Director

(PDI--Sept. 26 & Oct. 3, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Lanao del Norte

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Land Reform (DLR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts of Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid is issued.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Medium "A" or higher for similar contract to apply for eligibility and if found eligible to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Improvement of San Vicente - Butadon - Sta. Cruz - GMA Loop FMR
Location	SBS ARC, Kapatagan, Lanao del Norte
Brief Description	Concreting of 6.991 kilometers Farm-to-Market Road.
Approved Budget Cost	Php 41,956,669.27
Contract Duration	178 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars, relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	September 30-October 06, 2005
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	September 30-October 06, 2005
3. Deadline for the Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	October 06, 2005
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	October 10, 2005
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	October 10-22, 2005
6. Pre-Bid Conference	October 25, 2005; 9:00AM
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	November 07, 2005, 10:00AM

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at Office of the BAC Secretariat, Gov. Arsenio A. Quibranza Provincial Government Center, Pigcarangan, Tubod, Lanao del Norte, upon their submission of a LOI and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of **Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos only (PHP750.00)** to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte's Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the following forms:

1. Cash/certified check/cashier's check/manager's check in the amount of one percent (1%) of ABC which is **P419,566.70.**
2. Surety Bond which is two and a half percent (2.5%) of ABC in the amount **P1,048,918.75** callable on demand and issued by the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) or by a reputable surety or insurance company and to be posted in favor of the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of **Fifteen Thousand Pesos only (Php 15,000.00)** to the Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte's Cashier.

The Provincial Government of Lanao del Norte reserves the right to accept or reject any bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) REGINALDO M. CASTILLANO
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipal Government of Tigaon, Camarines Sur thru its Bids and Awards Committee invites suppliers/distributors/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	:	Supply and Delivery of Heavy Equipment
Brief Description	:	Supply and Delivery of One Unit Pay loader, One Unit Grader One Unit Backhoe, Two Units Dump trucks
Approved Budget For the Contract (ABC)	:	Php 6,950,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the preliminary examination of bids shall use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria. All particulars relative to eligibility statement and screening, bid security, performance security, pre-bid conference, evaluation of bids, post-qualification, and award of contract shall be governed by pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its implementing rules and regulations (IRR). The public bidding will be conducted in a single stage bidding. Eligibility and bid documents must be submitted in three sealed envelopes in triplicate. The 1st envelope must contain the eligibility requirements, the second envelope must contain the technical proposal and the 3rd envelope must contain the financial proposal.

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable cash amounting to 0.50% of the ABC beginning September 26, 2005. Pre-bid conference will be held on October 10, 2005. Deadline of submission of bids will be on October 24, 2005 at 9:00AM, BAC Secretariat, Mun. Hall, Caraycayon, Tigaon, Camarines Sur. The eligibility check and bid opening is scheduled on October 24, 2005 at 2:00P.M. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Mun. Bldg, Caraycayon, Tigaon, Camarines Sur. Post qualification and inspection of heavy equipment will be made not later than November 3, 2005.

The LGU- Tigaon, Camarines Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids. It also reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award, without incurring any liability to affected bidder or bidders.

(Sgd.) DOMINGO DANILO B. PENAFLOR
BAC Chairman

(PDI - Sept 26 & Oct 3 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL NEGROS
Provincial General Services Office
Capitol Area, Dumaguete City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Oriental Negros thru the Bids and Awards Committee invites interested suppliers to Pre-qualify and submit sealed bids for the various construction material to be bidded out in bulk for the completion of the Convention Center (Phase-1), Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

All bidders must be pre-qualified and accredited not later than September 29, 2005, the scheduled date of the Pre-Bid Conference, which will be conducted at 9:30 in the morning at the Provincial General Services Office, Capitol Area, Dumaguete City.

Sealed bids will be accepted on or before October 11, 2005 not later than 9:30 in the morning by the Bids and Awards Committee at the same venue at which time and place said bid proposals will be opened.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal is evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government, nor to indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Provincial General Services Officer
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI – Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

NOTICE OF NEW SCHEDULE OF PRE-BID CONFERENCE

Supply & Delivery of Elem. Sch.
Tables & Chairs
& Sec. Sch. Armchairs

Date: Oct. 5, 2005 - 10:00 A.M.
Venue: DepEd, Pasay City Div.
P. Zamora Elem. Sch.

(Sgd.) ESTRELLITA V. PUTI-AN
Chairman, DepEd-BAC

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

JAC FILIPINAS PAWNSHOP INC. G/F Ever Gotesco Grand Central Caloocan City will sell all unredeemed pledges for the month of APRIL 2005 on OCTOBER 17,2005 at 11:00am J.Lanuza-Auctioneer.
(PDI-Sept.26,05)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late Sps. APOLONIO V. LIPIO and JOVITA G. PETIZA have been extrajudicially settled by their legal heirs as per Doc 935, Page 187, Book XIII, Series of 2005 of Notary Public Atty. Reine Rhea L. Bunoan of Quezon City.
(PDI-Sept. 26, Oct. 3, & 10, 2005)

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Power Sector Assets & Liabilities Management Corporation
National Power Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

The Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corporation ("PSALM") Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee ("Committee") invites interested parties to participate in and bid for the following:

Lease of a parcel of land located at the Naga Power Plant Complex in Colon, Naga, Cebu

(the "Land"). The Land is being offered for lease on an "as is where is" basis.

Interested parties are required to submit a letter of interest ("LOI") to PSALM which shall state the full name, address, telephone and fax number of the interested party, name of the principal contact, signed by an authorized representative and with latest audited financial statements attached to the submission. All LOIs must be received by PSALM at the PSALM Office, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City not later than 5:00 p.m. on October 3, 2005 (the LOI Submission Deadline). Only interested parties that submit an LOI by the LOI Submission Deadline shall be allowed to participate further in the proposed lease of the Land.

As a prerequisite to the receipt of the Bidding Package, interested parties shall execute a Confidentiality Agreement and an Undertaking pursuant to Section 78 of RA 9136, in the forms provided by PSALM, and pay a non-refundable fee in the amount of Two Hundred U.S. Dollars (U.S. $200.00) (the "Participation Fee"). The Participation Fee shall either be in cash, manager's check or cashier's check. All bank charges, if any, shall be for the account of the interested party. The Confidentiality Agreement, Undertaking and Participation fee must be received by PSALM on or before 5:00 p.m. of October 4, 2005 to entitle an interested party further participation in the proposed lease of the Land.

The Bidding Package, which includes the bidding procedures, shall be issued during office hours (9:00 a. m. to 5:00 p. m.) from September 26, 2005 until October 5, 2005 at 5:00 p. m. (the "Deadline") at the PSALM office. In accordance with the bidding procedures, only interested parties who have been issued the Bidding Package by the Deadline or a consortium which includes an interested party will be allowed to participate further in bidding.

The schedule of the bidding activities shall be as follows:

Pre-bid Conference:	October 6, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the PSALM Office
Deadline for Receipt of Bids by PSALM:	To be announced by PSALM to Bidders at a later date

References to dates and times shall be based on Manila time. Should any of the above dates fall on a holiday, the deadline shall be extended to the same time of the immediately succeeding business day in Makati City.

Interested parties will be required to post a bid security (in an amount to be determined by PSALM and communicated later to the Bidders through a Supplemental Bid Bulletin) in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit, confirmed by a local bank and acceptable to the Committee. The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guarantee prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction. A two-envelope bidding system will be adopted. The winning bidder shall be required to construct and operate a power plant on the Land with a capacity of at least one hundred megawatts (100 MW). Other details of the bidding, including due diligence and obligations of bidders and the proposed lease of the Land, are contained in the Bidding Package.

Letters of Interest, Confidentiality Agreements and Undertakings shall be addressed and submitted to: The Chairman, Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee, PSALM Corporation, 2nd Floor, SGV II Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines. Inquiries and clarifications shall be addressed to Mr. Frollan A. Tampinco at the PSALM Office or at telephone number (632) 893-8202 loc. 202 or 206, telefax number (632) 840-3896 or e-mail address fatampinco@psalm.gov.ph.

The Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any interested party or bidder or proposals or bids therefrom, or any part thereof, and/or to waive any defects contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government, without offering any reason whatsoever. It does not assume any obligation to compensate or indemnify parties for any expense or loss that they may incur as a result of their participation in the bidding process, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. Finally, it reserves the right to modify, supplement, or change the Bidding Procedures and other aspects of the bidding process at any time, including the schedule and the venue provided herein, for any reason whatsoever and without prior notice. Interested parties and/or bidders will be notified subsequently of such modifications, supplements, or changes.

NIEVES L. OSORIO (Original Sgd.)
PSALM Privatization, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Sept. 21 & 26, 2005)

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC.

INVITATION TO BID

VICTORIAS MILLING COMPANY, INC. Victorias City, Negros Occidental would like to invite bidders to bid for the following on an "As is where is basis" inclusive of VAT:

Description	Approximate Population of Swine	Floor Price
1. Sale of the total Population of Swine	5,000 heads	P 5,000.00/head
2. Lease of Piggery Facilities		2,135,000.00/year
3. Lease of Organic Fertilizer Facilities		1,418,000.00/year

Bid documents are available for issuance from **September 19** to **October 3, 2005** during office hours at the **Sugar Marketing Division Office** (located at former Urban Bank Building), VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental and at the **VMC Makati Office** upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00. The pre-bid conference will be on **October 3, 2005 (Monday)** at **3:00 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room**, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental. Only those who participated in the pre-bidding conference are qualified to participate in the commercial bidding. Interested bidders may inspect bid items starting September 19, 2005, after securing the bidding kit. The commercial bidding will be on **October 10, 2005 (Monday)** at **3:00 P.M.** at the **HRD Conference Room**, VMC Millsite, Victorias City, Negros Occidental.

Sealed bids shall be accompanied by a bond of P2,500,000.00 in the form of manager's check. The bond of the winning bidder will be withheld by the Bidding Committee and will be treated as advance payment for the sale of the livestock. Pertinent information regarding the sale of the total population of swine, and lease of Piggery and Organic Fertilizer facilities are included in the bidding kit. Total sales will be based on final inventory-taking of swine in the presence of the winning bidder on **October 14, 2005**. Awarding of bids is subject to the approval of the VMC Board of Directors.

For further inquiries, please contact **Mr. Andy S. Asparen** at Sugar Marketing Division Office, VMC Millsite at tel. nos. **(034)399-3382** and **(local)2319** and **2380, Mr. Ernesto Oligo** at VMC Makati Office at tel. nos. **(02)890-5256** and **(02)890-7062** or visit our website at **www.victoriasmilling.com**.

VMC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any required formality therein, and to make an award to the bidder whose proposal is most advantageous to the Company.

(Sgd.) **TERESITA V. ILAGAN**
Chairperson, Senior Bidding Committee

(PDI – Sept. 19 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF RIZAL
Municipality of Morong
Office of the Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Morong Bids and Award Committee (BAC), is inviting qualified bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

		Project Cost
Concreting of Portion Tantiongco St., Brgy. San Guillermo	P	245,000.00
Asphalt/Overlay of Ingusto St., Brgy. San Guillermo	P	200,000.00
Construction of Covered Pathway at Tabaga Elem. School, Brgy. Maybancal	P	200,000.00
Riprapping and Embarkment of Natividad St., (Patong Lupa), Brgy. Maybancal	P	220,000.00
Concreting of Tiburcio St., and Rehabilitation of Open Canal at F. San Miguel St., Brgy. Bombongan	P	220,000.00
Proposed Improvement of Soriano St., Brgy. CCL	P	220,000.00
Construction of JJB Type Waiting Shed at Paglabas, Brgy. San Pedro	P	94,900.00
Concreting of Pathway at Timoteo Reyes Memorial Elem. School, Brgy. San Pedro	P	95,000.00
Delivery of Drugs, Medicines, Office Supplies and Equipment	P	700,000.00
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	P	2,194,900.00

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Issuance of Eligibility and Bidding Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission and Opening of Eligibility and Bid Envelopes
September 22, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr ,Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	September 26, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr.,Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer	September 28, 2005 10:00 AM 2nd Flr ,Morong Municipal Building Office of the Municipal Budget Officer

That as of bidding date, September 29, 2005 10:00 AM, prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use for non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualifications of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Eligibility and documents shall be issued to applicants upon filing of a Letter of Intent to apply and payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of P 500.00 in the form of Cash or Manager's check in favor of Municipality of Morong.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR). Only applicants who paid bid fees shall be allowed to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and submit Bid proposals.

The Municipality of Morong thru the Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and/or part thereof, or waived any defect contained therein and may accept the offer which it deems the lowest calculated responsive bid.

(Sgd.) YOLANDA T. ALCANTARA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–Sept. 20 & 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance with RA 7041

GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER I – SG 26

A. BUREAU OF RESIDENT OMBUDSMAN – Item Nos. OMBA-GIO1-108-1998; OMBA-GIO1-120-1998; OMBA-GIO1-132-1998; (3 Positions)
B. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) E – Item No. OMBA-GIO1-1-1998; **OMBA-GIO1151-1998; **OMBA-GIO1-119-1998 (3 Positions)
C. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) B – Item No. **OMBA-GIO1-62-1998 (1 Position)
D. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) A – Item No. OMBA-GIO1-63-1998 (1 Position)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 3 years relevant experience; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

GRAFT INVESTIGATION & PROSECUTION OFFICER II – 27
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C – Item No. OMBA-GIO2-33-1998 (1 Position)

Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: 4 years of relevant experience; Training: 24 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR)

LEGAL ASSISTANT II – SG 12
FIELD INVESTIGATION OFFICE – Item No. OMBA-LEA2-106-2004 (1 Position)
Education: Bachelor's degree; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) / Second Level Eligibility

CLERK III – SG 6
PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION & ADMINISTRATIVE ADJUDICATION BUREAU (PIAB) C – Item No. OMBA-CK3-79-1998 (1 Position)

Education: Completion of two (2) years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service Subprofessional / First Level Eligibility

ACCOUNTANT III – SG 18
ACCOUNTING DIVISION – Item No. OMBA-A3-1-1998 (1 Position)

Education: Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting; Experience: 2 years of relevant experience; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (CPA)

Applicants should submit within ten (10) working days from the date of this publication to the Human Resource Management Division at the above address, the following requirements:

1) A letter stating the position applied for;
2) Duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212);
3) 1"x1" picture (colored)
4) *Bar/Board Rating or CSC Certificate of Eligibility;
5) *Transcript of Records;
6) *Certificates of Seminars/Training attended;
7) *Service Records or Certificates from previous/present employers stating the positions assumed and corresponding actual duties and responsibilities (if applicable)
8) *Performance Appraisal Reports for the last two rating periods (for current government employees only);
9) Statement duly signed by the applicant as to any relative(s) within the fourth degree of consanguinity or affinity, currently employed with the Office of the Ombudsman.

*Where photocopies are filed, the documents must be certified as true copies by the proper authorities or the applicant may present the originals to the Human Resource Management Officer for comparison with the photocopies.

** This is a republication of the vacancies published on March 18, 2005, February 1, 2005 & April 4, 2005. Previous applications were already evaluated and processed. New applications will no longer be accepted.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
Quezon City

EN BANC RESOLUTION NO. 01-05
(Series of 2005)

WHEREAS, Executive Orders 292 (1987), 159 (1994), 197 (2000), and other issuances enjoin all government agencies to adjust fees and charges by just and reasonable rates sufficient to cover the full cost of services rendered;

WHEREFORE, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the following new schedule of legal fees/deposits payable to the National Labor Relations Commission be adopted:

1. Certificate of Pending/No Pending Case	Php	300.00
2. Transcript of Stenographic Notes		10.00 / page
3. Certified Machine Copies		10.00 / page
4. Filing fee for Petition for Injunction/TRO*		3,000.00
5. Filing Fee for Petition for Relief from Judgement*		3,000.00
6. Injunction Expense Fund (refundable)		5,000.00 minimum
7. Deposit fee under BP 325		
a. 1st P2,000.00		20.00
b. P2,001.00 to P18,000.00		90.00
c. Over P 18,000.00		(x.5%)
8. Filing fee for Motion to Quash (re: Writ of Execution)*		500.00
9. Filing fee for Motion to Recompute Award*		500.00
10. Filing fee for Third Party Claim/Complaint*		5,000.00
11. Execution fee: (to be charged pro-rata)		
a. For awards less than P5,000.00		200.00
b. P5,000.00 or more but less than P20,000.00		400.00
c. P20,000.00 or more but less than P50,000.00		600.00
d. P50,000.00 or more but less than P100,000.00		800.00
e. P100,000.00 or more but less than P150,000.00		1,000.00
f. P150,000 or more		1,000.00 plus 10.00 for every 1,000.00 in excess of 150,000.00
12. Appeal fee		150.00
13. Legal Research Fee (UP Law Center)		20.00

Unless otherwise provided by law, rule or regulation, the imposition of the foregoing fees/charges is subject to the qualification that indigent litigants (a) whose gross income and that of their immediate family do not exceed an amount double the monthly minimum wage for an employee *and* (b) who do not own real property with a fair market value as stated in the current tax declaration of more than Three Hundred Thousand (P300,000.00) pesos shall exempted from immediate payment of fees/charges.

In such case, the fees/charges shall be a lien on any judgment rendered in the case favorable to the indigent litigant unless it is otherwise provided

To be entitled to the exemption, the litigant shall execute an affidavit that he and his immediate family do not earn a gross income above-mentioned, nor do they own any real property with the fair market value aforementioned.

Any falsity in the affidavit of litigant shall be sufficient cause to dismiss the complaint or action, or to strike out the pleading of that party, in addition to whatever criminal liability incurred.

*As regards the new filing fees, the concerned party shall be given five (5) days within which to pay such fees within a transitory period of six (6) months from effectivity of this Resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from publication in newspaper of general circulation.

Signed this 1st day of September 2005, Tagaytay City, Philippines.

BENEDICTO ERNESTO R. BITONIO JR.
Chairman

RAUL T. AQUINO
Presiding Commissioner

LOURDES C. JAVIER
Presiding Commissioner

GERARDO NOGRALES
Presiding Commissioner

SALIC B. DUMARPA
Presiding Commissioner

PERLITA B. VELASCO
Commissioner

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AURELIO D. MENZON
Commissioner

OSCAR S. UY
Commissioner

PROCULO T. SARMEN
Commissioner

JOVITO C. CAGAANAN
Commissioner

Attested by:

APOLLO X.C.S. SANGALANG
Executive Clerk of Court IV

APPROVED BY:

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary
Department of Labor and Employment

(PDI – September 26, 2005)

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Our Beloved

Atty. Pablo Garcia Macapagal

Died in the peace of the Lord on September 23, 2005 at the age of 71.

He shall be missed by his dearest wife **Marciana**; children **Maria Socorro, Marirose & Jacob;** and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes. G. Araneta Ave., Q. C. Interment will be on Thursday, Sept. 29, 2005 at Loyola Memorial Park, Parañaque at 9:00 a.m.

"I have done my best in the race, I have run full distance, and I have kept the faith. And now there is waiting for me the price of victory..." **2 Tim 4:7-8**

DANTE VILLARUEL MATUTINA

Now peacefully rests in the grace and goodness of our Lord on September 23, 2005 at the age of 66.

His beloved wife **Angela Luna Matutina**; loving children **Donna, Dennis** and **Babbette, Alan** and **Marge, Debbie, Arlene** and **Elmer, Dulce** and **Marlon**; and grandchildren **Denicka, Kevi, Rolec, Enzo, Daney, Eily, Darey,** and **Toni** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His ashes lie in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, September 28, 2005 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Quezon City at 10:30 AM after the 8:00 a.m. Mass at Marian Chapel C.

RUFINO SARMIENTO MATIENZO

Born: September 4, 1930
Peacefully joined his Creator on September 24, 2005

His bereaved family : wife **Estela D. Matienzo**, children and in-laws **Gloria & Wilbert, Gerardo, Gilbert & Menchie, Grace & Pito,** and **Giovanni**; grandchildren **Patricia, Phelicia, Alphonso, Michaela, Julian** and **Vincent**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the St. Augustine of Hippo Magallanes Chapel, Makati City. His remains will be transferred to Aya, San Jose, Batangas today, September 26, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

Interment will be on Tuesday, September 27, 2005 at San Jose Catholic Cemetery after the 1:00 P.M. Mass at the San Jose Parish Church, San Jose, Batangas.

"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

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Oct. 23, 1945 - Sept. 23, 2005

Outstanding and Beloved Teacher and a Dear Friend

Her brother **Catalino Jr.**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Claret Church (Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish) Ascension Chapel, Quezon City.

Cremation on Sept. 27, 2005 at the Funeraria Paz Crematorium, Araneta Avenue, after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Claret Church.

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NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Republic of the Philippines

Installation of Elevated Water Tank for Domestic Water Supply System at Naga Converter Station

Brief Description:

An elevated steel water tank of approximately two (2) cu. meters capacity for domestic water supply is to be erected inside the compound of Naga Converter Station in Naga City.

[TRANS-05-IEWT-EG-10]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Hundred Thirty Three Thousand Ninety Six & 58/100 (Php333,096.58)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Installation of Elevated Water Tank for Domestic Water Supply at Naga Converter Station*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *Installation of Elevated Water Tank for Domestic Water Supply at Naga Converter Station*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license*** with ***License Particular of at least: "Category Trade, General Building"*** and ***Registration Particular of at least: "Small A, Water Treatment Plant and System"***, respectively, have completed a similar contract involving construction of structures involving concrete and/or steel. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***October 04, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by ***45 calendar days.***

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR Part-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***September 19-October 03, 2005 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Php1,000.00***. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***October 4, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***October 4, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***October 14, 17 & 18, 2005.***

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee ***Php 1,000.00***. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***October 14, 17 & 18, 2005, 8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.***

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***October 21, 2005, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***October 21, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM.*** Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation - South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente Binan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Reynaldo B. Vergara – BAC Chairman
Tel No.: (02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086, 4053
rbvergara@transco.ph
Fax. No.:(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) **REYNALDO B. VERGARA**
Dept. Manager, District I/ BAC Chairman

(PDI--Sept. 26, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cotabato
CITY OF KIDAPAWAN

Loan Agreement # PH-P200

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from the Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,749 million (Y7,210 million) towards the financing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP) dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of the different school buildings. In view hereof, the Government of the Philippines through DepED-SEDIP with the participation of the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Kidapawan City as implementor, herein after called the Agency, wishes to received bids for the new construction of the following schools, to wit;

Package No.	Name of School	Location	Building Type
01	Spottswood NHS	Spottswood Methodist High School, Kidapawan City	2 Storey 4 classrooms with Science Laboratory Bldg., Library, Faculty Room and Toilets

Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of the project cost. As for the remaining portion, the agency will take appropriate measures for finance.

JBIC requires that the bidders and Contractors, as well as DepED-SEDIP under contracts funded with JBIC ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standards of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts, in pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1. *will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;*
2. *will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.*

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) – registered contactors or joint venture contractors with PCAB license category **Medium A**, classification **B**, General Building.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The Bids and Awards Committee
Kidapawan City
Tel. Nos.: 064-288-1604
Telefax No. :

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting October 7, 2005 upon submission of a letter of intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00.

Pre-bid conference shall be conducted on October 16, 2005 at 10:00 AM to be held at Kidapawan City Hall.

Submission of bid together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue on October 28, 2005, 10:00 AM at Kidapawan City Hall. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representatives,

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO C. CABILES, JR.**
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI- Sept. 26 & Oct. 3 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT
Pilar St., Zamboanga City

INVITATION TO BID

The ZAMBOANGA CITY WATER DISTRICT (ZCWD) is inviting interested Licensed Suppliers to submit bids for the following:

PR/JO NO.	DESCRIPTION	BID DOCUMENT FEE
8347	Supply of 10,000 Liters Capacity Truck-Mounted Stainless Steel Water Tanker Approved Budget Cost: P1,500,000.00	P1,000.00

Interested Licensed Suppliers may obtain *Bid Forms and Detailed Specifications* at the BAC Secretariat, 3/F ZCWD Main Bldg., Pilar Street, Zamboanga City upon payment of minimal non-refundable document fee. Issuance on Bid documents will be on September 19 to October 4, 2005. After these dates the BAC Secretariat will no longer issue any bid documents.

Licensed Suppliers must submit the following documents for eligibility check on or before October 5, 2005 to qualify for bidding:

A. Legal Documents
1. A copy of the Department of Trade & Industry Certificate of Registration of Business Name or Security & Exchange Commission Certificate, whichever may be appropriate under existing laws of the Philippines.
2. Valid and Current mayor's Permit/Municipal license for the year 2005.
3. Taxpayer's Identification Number
4. Statement from Bidder that it is not "Blacklisted" or barred from bidding by the government or any of its agencies, offices, corporations or LGUs, including non-inclusion in the consolidated Blacklisted Report issued by the GPPB as provided in Section 69.4 of IRRA-A, R.A. 9184

B. Technical Documents
1. Statement of the prospective bidder of all its on-going and completed government and private contracts within the relevant period, where applicable, including contracts awarded but not yet started, if any. The statement shall state for each contract whether said contract is:
   a. Ongoing, Completed or Awarded but not yet started: within the relevant period, where applicable. The statement include, for each contract, the following:
      The Name of the Contract;
      Date of Contract;
      Amount of contract and value of outstanding contracts;
      Date of Contract Started;
      End user's acceptance, if completed; and
   Specification whether prospective bidder is a manufacturer, supplier or distributor; or
   b. Similar or not in nature and complexity to the contract to be bid.
   For details please refer to Republic Act 9184 under Section 23.6, f.1.2 under Technical Documents.

C. Financial Documents
1. The prospective bidder's audited financial statements, stamped "received" by the Bureau of Internal Revenue or its duly accredited and authorized institutions, for the immediately preceding calendar year, showing among others, the prospective bidder's total and current Assets and Liabilities; as of the year 2004, or the latest BIR stamped Financial Statement.
2. The prospective bidder's computation for its Net Financial Contracting Capacity (NFCC), which shall be accordance with Section 23.11 of IRR-A, RA 9184 or a commitment from a licensed bank to extend to it a credit line if awarded the contact to be bid, or a cash deposit certificate, in an amount not lower than that set by the procuring entity in the Bidding Documents, which shall be at least equal to ten percent (10%) of the approved budget for the contract to be bid.

Other Documents
1. Letter of commitment of the prospective bidder to participate in the bidding
2. The Prospective Bidder or its duly authorized representative shall certify under oath that each of the documents submitted is an original copy of a true and faithful reproduction or copy of the original.

Pre-bid Conference: October 5, 2005
2:00 PM AT THE 2/F, ZCWD MAIN BLDG.,
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY
Submission of Bids: October 14, 2005
2:00 PM AT THE 2/F, ZCWD MAIN BLDG.
PILAR ST., ZAMBOANGA CITY

(Sgd.) **ALEJO S. ROJAS, JR.**
BAC II Chairman

(PDI- Sept. 26, 2005)

NEECO II
Area 2

NUEVA ECIJA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. – Area 2
Maharlika Highway, Diversion, San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija
Tel./Fax : 044-406-3668

September 19, 2005

The **Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. (NEECO II) – Area 2** is inviting you to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of labor and materials for the following:

LOCATION	XFORMER	1 PHASE	OS(KM)	UB(KM)
Project – 5				
1. Patalac, Cab. City	1-15	0.330	1.465	0.200
2. Magsalisi, Jaen	1-25	1.900	0.115	0.926
3. San Anton, San Leonardo	1-15	0.085	0.330	0.045
4. Rio Chico, Gen. Tinio	1-15	0.490	0.290	0.280
Project 6				
1. Macabakiay, Bongabon	1-25	0.145	0.570	0.070
2. Pesa, Bongabon	1-25	0.470	0.440	0.315
3. Calabasa, Gabaldon	1-15		1.360	
4. San Juan, Laur	1-15	0.240	0.250	0.190
Project 7				
1. Ganaderia, Palayan City	1-25	0.390	0.415	0.280
2. Inanama, Llanera			0.405	0.210
3. Picaleon, Gen Natividad	1-15	0.120	0.745	0.210
4. Talabutab Norte, Nivdad	1-15	0.050	0.620	
Project 8				
1. Poblacion West I, Rizal	1-15	0.205	0.390	0.050
2. Poblacion West II, Rizal	1-15	0.585	0.550	0.475
3. Estrella, Rizal	1-10	0.365	0.100	0.070
4. Macapsing, Rizal	1-25	0.220	0.965	0.110

Deadline for the submission of company profile will be simultaneous with the Pre-bid Conference on OCTOBER 5, 2005 at exactly 10:00 A.M. at the Conference Room of NEECO II – Area 2. Bidding proper will be announced during the Pre-Bid Conference. Registration fee is P1,500.00.

NEECO II Area-2 reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive defect or informality therein, or accept any bid or offer which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to NEECO II Area-2.

(Sgd.)Ms. JUANITA G. IGNACIO
PBAC Chairman
Cell No. 09209060894

Noted by:

(Sgd.)Mr. RAMON M. DE VERA
OIC - General Manager

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President

BCDA
Bases Conversion Development Authority

INVITATION FOR PROPOSALS

ASSET DISPOSITION PROGRAM - PHASE 3

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested proponents to participate in Phase 3 of BCDA's Asset Disposition Program (ADP Phase 3). ADP Phase 3 involves the development and privatization of the approximately: (1) 548-square meter portion of Nichols Loop located at Nichols Interchange, along South Superhighway, Villamor Air Base, Pasay City; (2) 86-square meter portion of the Tricycle Terminal Area in Fort Bonifacio, and (3) 1,143-square meter temporary quarters in Fort Bonifacio

Interested proponents may submit their Letters of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) for ADP Phase 3 that outlines, among others, the requirements that will enable proponents to participate in the privatization.

The TOR for ADP Phase 3 will be ready for distribution to interested proponents starting on 19 September 2005 at the BCDA offices. A non-refundable cost of the TOR is Php2,000.00, for each TOR, payable to the BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

A conference among interested proponents is tentatively set on 05 October 2005. The objective of the conference is to discuss the property that form part of ADP Phase 3, the TOR and other clarifications from interested proponents. Interested proponents will be informed of the final schedule and venue of the conference through contact numbers submitted to the BCDA.

Interested proponents can direct their inquiries to:

THE CHAIRMAN
ADP PHASE 3 COMMITTEE (ADPCom-3)
Bases Conversion Development Authority
2/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave.,
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Metro Manila

or they can contact Ms. Aileen R. Zosa or Ms. Bambie L. Andal at telephone numbers 816-6666 or 816-1043.

ISAAC S. PUNO III
Executive Vice President

(PDI-Sept. 15, 19 & 26, 2005)

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BUSINESS

Gov't expected to trim '05 deficit to P161B

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT IS CONFIDENT it can trim its budget deficit to only P161.6 billion by year's end from the P180-billion programmed shortfall despite snags in the implementation of the expanded value added tax.

And even if the Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs would fall short of their collection targets, the government could still expect to improve its revenue goal by at least P8 billion, according to the Department of Finance's latest assessment to be presented at a congressional hearing today.

"The expected shortfalls for BIR and BOC will be offset by the favorable performance of non-tax collections," the DOF report said.

Aside from better-than-programmed revenues, the government also expects to generate about P12 billion in savings from interest payments on local debts, as local interest rates have remained lower than anticipated.

The benchmark 91-day Treasury has averaged only 6.3 percent this year—much lower than the 7-8 percent range projected under the fiscal program.

The DOF noted that the Bureau of Treasury, for instance, had already overshot its full-year target by a hefty P22.6 billion.

In this emerging fiscal scenario, the DOF did not factor in the gains from privatization efforts for the remainder of the year.

However, it expects to collect P10 billion in fees and charges. The government is also looking forward to the P2.4 billion in sequestered Marcos wealth to be released sometime in the fourth quarter.

For September to December, the BIR is expected to generate P183.1 billion, bringing its full-year revenue to P537.8 billion, even without the VAT.

The BOC, on the other hand, is expected to attain its remaining target of P52.6 billion.

"Overall, the government remains confident that the deficit target will be met due to rigorous tax collection effort coupled with spending discipline," the DOF report said.

For the full year, the government expects to collect P791 billion in revenues, of which P689.7 billion would consist of tax revenues.

Expenditures for the full year are seen to be contained at P952.6 billion, representing a leeway of P341.6 billion in spending for the last four months.

From January to August, the government has incurred P80.8 billion in cash budget deficit, given expenditures of P611 billion and revenues of P530.2 billion.

The latest assessment indicated that the deficit in the last four months should equal the P80.8 billion deficit from January to August.

Overdue project gets the attention it needs

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT'S INFRASTRUCTURE development arm is putting other projects in the back burner to focus on the rehabilitation of the South Luzon Expressway, according to Trade Secretary Peter B. Favila.

Favila said in an interview that he would want the Philippine Infrastructure Corp. to take on projects one at a time, rather than juggle several projects only to leave them half-baked.

"If projects are started simultaneously, there is a greater probability that these would be left unfinished," Favila told the INQUIRER.

Favila said he had personally visited construction sites along the SLEX and saw that preparations were underway to start the repair of the Alabang viaduct and the widening of the stretch from Alabang to Calamba in Laguna.

"You can see for yourself that heavy equipment are working on the service road, making adjustments that would allow the rerouting of vehicular traffic," Favila said.

He said the South Luzon Tollway Corp.—which is dominated by Malaysia's MTD Capital though Hopewell Crown Infrastructure Inc.—and the National Development Co. have yet to clinch a supplemental tollway operation agreement. But the ground work had already been laid for the long overdue project.

"This project would take two years to finish and we want it gathering momentum as early as possible," Favila said.

Due to the country's inadequate shipping and port systems, about 60 percent of Luzon's cargo traffic pass through the SLEX from ports in Manila to the industrial enclaves south of the capital.

Put up last year as a unit of NDC, PIC is meant to start up infrastructure development projects that would help attract new investments and help existing ones do better business in the country.

Officials have said PIC was tasked to line up a P100-billion portfolio of projects for the benefit of the private sector.

TRADE and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila (center) discusses the progress of the South Luzon Expressway rehabilitation with Abraham Sales of the Philippine National Construction Corp. (left) and Noel Eli Kintanar of the Philippine Infrastructure Corp. The initial phase of the SLEX project involves the building of a bypass road in Alabang to decongest traffic. Officials expect road jams once the major construction work starts.

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Owners, Laguna Garden Café
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BUSINESS Monday

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Business Features Editor
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NEW PHALTRA CHIEF'S MISSION

Get local gov't to help in country's fiscal mess

By Michelle V. Remo

HIS MISSION IS TO rally local government units to help get the country out of its fiscal mess.

Whipping LGUs into shape is a practical way of curing the chronic budget deficit in the national government level. So believes Victor Endriga, newly elected president of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra).

"Local governments should not rely heavily on the IRA (internal revenue allotment), and instead become financially independent," Endriga says in an interview with the INQUIRER.

He adds that LGUs, many of which have been surviving largely only through the funds coming from the national government, should become instruments in helping the latter generate much-needed revenues.

Currently, 40 percent of the national government's budget is appropriated for the IRA, which is the annual fund automatically given to LGUs. Of the amount, 23 percent is given to provinces, another 23 percent to cities, 34 percent to municipalities and 20 percent to barangays.

Adjust IRA

Endriga, who holds a doctorate degree in fiscal studies, suggests that the IRA allocation be adjusted in such a way that rich cities like Quezon City, Makati, Manila, among others, be made to forego their allocation in favor of the poor ones. At the same time, he wants poor cities to become aggressive in their own revenue-generation program to become self-sustaining.

Under the current situation, a number of LGUs have been headaches for the national government in the area of tax remittance. The Bureau of Internal Revenue had said that many of them are delinquent taxpayers—they do not remit withholding taxes appropriately and on time.

Taxes that LGUs are tasked to withhold include income taxes of their employees and value-added taxes of their suppliers and contractors.

Revolutionary move

Aware of the behavior of many LGUs, Endriga says Phaltra wants to make the revolutionary move of making its members, agents of the much-yearned fiscal prosperity instead of adding to the burden. After assuming his new post last month, Endriga issued a memorandum to all city treasurers to remit all their tax liabilities to the national government.

To forge cooperation between the BIR and LGUs, who seem to have failed to develop a warm working relationship because of tax liability issues, Phaltra raises the proposal of an information-sharing arrangement between the two parties.

Under the proposal, LGUs will provide the BIR with a list of businesses registered with them. He notes that a huge number of businesses registered with the LGUs are not in the BIR's list.

"Business establishments are afraid not to register with their respective local governments because they know they can be checked and shut down anytime," Endriga, concurrently treasurer of Quezon City, says.

Endriga notes that in Quezon City, 65,000 business establishments are registered in the local government but only 30,000 of them are registered with the BIR. This means a huge number of businesses, especially small and medium ones, do not pay taxes to the national government.

Given that about 97 percent of businesses in the country are composed of micro-, small- and medium-sized ones, providing the BIR with complete records of whom to collect taxes from will help end its fiscal woes. On the other hand, LGUs can make use of BIR records to compare income declarations by businesses.

Aside from corruption, rampant tax evasion is often cited as a major cause of the national government's fiscal problem, characterized by its posting of budget deficits since the late 1990s.

The proposed revenue-sharing scheme, Phaltra believes, can help start a cooperative relationship between LGUs and the BIR that can help achieve the goal of a sound government fiscal sector.

Phaltra also proposes that LGUs be deputized by the national government as VAT-collecting agents. Since LGUs are more familiar with the businesses that operate in their localities, they can help a lot in catching tax delinquents, he says.

Quezon City model

The BIR, however, has not expressed eagerness to the proposal of tapping LGUs to collect VAT for the national government, given that some of them are tax delin-

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MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon PB. Claudio

OUR GAWAD KALINGA (GK) PROJECT AND my participation as speaker at the World Conference of the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER) in Zaragoza, Spain, two weeks ago have brought me in contact with two groups of Filipinos who can significantly influence the future of our country.

The indigenous peoples

The first is our Indigenous Peoples (IPs), the Filipinos in 110 enthnolinguistic groups that "have continuously lived as organized communities in defined territories (or ancestral domains) since time immemorial, and who have retained some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions." They comprise about 17 percent of our country's total population.

The IPs live mostly in mountainous areas that are difficult to reach and are vulnerable to natural disasters, such as the Mt. Pinatubo eruption, which displaced about 20,000 Aetas. They are, perhaps, the poorest of the poor. Government programs hardly reach them.

How can IPs influence our future?

It is now being recognized worldwide that IPs can significantly influence the future of the world. The SER conference, which is the largest held in Europe on the subject, with 850 participants, is the latest gathering to recognize the role of IPs in global sustainability.

According to the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development, IPs account for most of the world's cultural diversity, between 4,000 and 5,000 of the world's 6,000 cultures. They speak three-quarters of the world's 6,000 languages. They inhabit many of the areas of highest biological diversity, on which the long-term security of food and medicines in the world depends. They also inhabit areas rich in minerals.

I do not have up-to-date statistics on the cultural diversity and languages of our IPs. But we all know that they—the Aetas, Dumagats, Mangyans and others—live mostly in our mountains, which are rich in biodiversity and minerals.

The Convention on Biological Diversity, an international treaty, has recognized the important role that IPs play in conserving the world's biological diversity, as well as in addressing issues on climate change. It is now promoting the protection of traditional knowledge of IPs, which enables them to conserve biodiversity and to have capabilities for predicting climate changes locally.

The mountainous areas that IPs mostly live in are also important not only for their biodiversity but for the fact that "almost all of the world's major rivers rise within them." Mountains are the source of much of the world's water supply, which is used for food production and energy development. Yet, many IPs remain at the survival stage. For example, the Aetas in our GK project site eat only two meals a day and live without electricity.

Helping IPs acquire the basic necessities in life and develop sustainable sources of livelihood is the challenge to us. The work starts with understanding them and their cultures and environments.

The OFWS

The other group of special Filipinos is composed of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Much has been said about how OFWs help keep our country afloat economically. Yet, they continue to receive inadequate public services.

Consider, for example, the OFWs in Barcelona, Spain. They, their families and other members of the Filipino community there have a total population of about 17,000 and growing fast. But the Philippine consulate there is a one-person office run by Honorary Consul Dolores Sanchez. It operates through a share of the collected visa fees. Its revenues used to include part of the passport application fees. But I was told that the processing of passports has been transferred recently to the Philippine Embassy in Madrid due to a new system that applies improved but expensive technology.

Unfortunately, that change in the system, according to the Filipinos I met there, costs them at least one day of work as they have to go to Madrid for the renewal of their passports. Although they now live more comfortable lives, they cannot yet afford to miss even one day of work. They also wonder until when Consul Sanchez alone can attend to all the needs of their growing community.

That is a brief look at the life of our OFWs and how government services reach them. Yet, what is heart-warming is that they are now setting aside part of their hard-earned money to build GK houses and, soon, a complete Fil-Hispanic GK community for the poor in the Philippines.

Ato and Beth Glinoga, a couple leader of the Couples for Christ group who opened their home to me enabled me to experience how life has been treating our OFWs and to know how they raise funds for GK. For example, Ato asked his friends on his last birthday to donate to GK instead of giving him gifts. That simple gesture netted enough funds to build a few GK houses.

Fr. Reuel Castañeda of Cavite, their parish priest, is now helping the Filipino community organize one or more cooperatives that will pool funds for investing in small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the Philippines, including setting up dental and medical clinics in rural areas.

Special Filipinos

The IPs and OFWs are special Filipinos who can influence our future, as well as our present in the case of OFWs. We hope public-private partnership initiatives can give them what they deserve.

Our GK project, the Kalinga-IP, is one initiative that aims to build ecologically sound villages for IPs. It also aims to recognize the role of IPs in our country's sustainable development and the importance of traditional knowledge in protecting the environment. It is a partnership project of the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), the TOWNS Foundation, which is composed of past recipients of The Outstanding Women in the Nations Service awards, and the GK Community Development Foundation.

The project got a big boost lately, through the help of TOWNS awardees Deanie Lyn Ocampo and Teresita Ang-See, with the contribution of 50 GK houses by the Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran Foundation on behalf of the Tsinoy community.

MAP is also presenting the SOIL (Search for Outstanding IP Leadership) Awards tomorrow night at the MAP cultural night. Through this project, MAP, in partnership with the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Earthsavers' Movement, National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Tribal Communities Association of the Philippines, and others, will recognize leading IP individuals, groups, and communities that have accomplished outstanding achievements for the development and progress of their indigenous cultural heritage and communities.

For OFWs, a call for better government service to the OFWs, is a simple step we are taking. We also hope some MAP members will form partnerships with OFW communities in funding SME projects.

(The author an engineer-economist, co-chairs MAP's environment committee and co-directs the MAP-TOWNS-GK Kalinga-IP Project. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

Forwarding firm sets sights higher

BRIZUELA: Being a Filipino company has its competitive advantage

ONLY LESSER MEN WOULD BALK AT obstacles; the ones who succeed look at difficulties as challenges that can be overcome. And instead of making excuses, they think up of solutions.

One such man is Uldarico "Rico" V. Brizuela, the co-founder and moving force behind the leading 100-percent Filipino-owned airfreight forwarding company in the country, Airlift Asia Inc (AAI).

The company is now among the top 1,500 corporations in the Philippines in terms of sales revenue and profit. It is also the exclusive agent of the World Air Cargo Organization in the Philippines and is consistently one of the top 10 agents of the International Air Transport Association.

Behind his quiet mien, this gentleman is a force to reckon with in the industry. Brizuela is in fact one of the most respected figures in the business such that no less than the Global Cargo Carriers Inc. honored him with a lifetime achievement award in 2004. He was also recently elected president of the Philippine International Seafreight Forwarders Association Inc., a post that he will occupy until 2007.

Brizuela started AAI from the ground up with a business partner in 1981. His interest in the airfreight forwarding industry was piqued after his stint at Philippine Airlines where he worked while finishing his Electrical Engineering course at the Mapua Institute of Technology. He later joined the Delgado Group of Companies where his primary responsibilities were domestic and international cargo sales and freight forwarding operations.

By the latter part of the 1970s, Brizuela's resolve to establish an air cargo business started to take shape. He approached his bosses at Delgado about it, but they were not too keen about starting a separate company.

Though he was turned down, Brizuela never gave up. He knew that in due time, an opportunity to realize it would pop up.

By late 1980, that opportunity presented itself and he courageously grabbed it. Brizuela received word from the owners of a freight forwarding company that they were looking for some people with vision to manage their business. Negotiations took place and by some providential stroke, Brizuela ended up a 50-percent share of what was to be AAI.

It was in 1981 when AAI first took flight. Even though it was a new player in the industry, it immediately gained attention and respect. Brizuela was even elected a director of the Aircargo Forwarders of the Philippines Inc., at that time an association of the top 50 freight forwarders in the country. He was one of the youngest officials ever to hold that post.

AAI's initial operations ran smoothly. It was even able to surpass the goals it set for itself. In 1983, however, the assassination of former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr. plunged the country into a deep political strife. This situation alarmed many foreign companies doing business in the Philippines and to reassess and/or postpone their plans and worse, even pull out of the country, thus causing many local company partners and suppliers to close down.

But this political crisis did not deter Brizuela from carrying out his grand plans for AAI. In fact, he and his management team even thought that this was a perfect opportunity for them to reposition AAI in the market.

"It was also during that time that we decided to train our employees so that they would be better prepared for any situation," Brizuela said.

AAI survived and even became a stronger and more dynamic company. This is why when the big foreign-owned, global competitors started coming during the 1990s, AAI was prepared to slug it out with them.

"The entry of multinational firms was good for local companies like ours because we were able to benefit from their best practices and even some of their technology and processes," he said. "We learned a lot about world class practices and it challenged us to continue to improve ourselves so that we can provide quality service to our customers."

In fact, Brizuela sees AAI's being a Filipino company as its competitive advantage in a field dominated by foreign players. Brizuela believes in getting AAI's employees properly and highly trained. And while enhancing the skills of his people, he himself also honed his expertise in logistics and supply chain management with various special training seminars.

From its humble beginnings in a one-room office, AAI has now grown into a multimillion-peso business. It now has several affiliates: Airlift Asia Customs Brokerage Inc., AAI Logistics Inc., JIT Freight Inc., A2Z Logistics Inc., Asia Ocean Services Inc., Freight Assurance Agency Inc., AAI Business PRO and AAI Charity Foundation Inc.

As AAI marks its 25th year in the business this 2005, Brizuela has set up a corporate charitable foundation to help out the lesser and unfortunate members of our local communities. Brizuela's way of giving back the many blessings he has received.

He is also setting his sights on the international scene. "We are challenging our original vision because our customers are asking us to position ourselves overseas."

Market for law books growing in RP

THE MARKET FOR LAW BOOKS IN the Philippines is a fast-growing business.

The business has become even more promising as the compilation of Supreme Court decisions, which form part of the law of the land, has ballooned to 458 volumes since 1961.

This was revealed by Central Books, an institution in this field, being the country's oldest law books publisher and printer, which has been in the business since 1945.

At present, there are 60 law schools nationwide, and a total of 8,050 enrollees for the 2005-2006 semester in Metro Manila alone, according to Central Books vice president for finance and administration Paolo Sibal.

"At the same time, there are a total of 38,000 registered practicing lawyers, who all have to take the MCLE (Mandatory Continuing Legal Education)," Sibal added.

"And it's very important for all of them, law students and practitioners, to also learn all the Supreme Court decisions by heart. This prompted our company to dedicate a substantial part of its operations to the publishing of the Supreme Court Report Annotated (SCRA)," Sibal explained.

The SCRA is the Central Books' brand of compiled Supreme Court decisions, and is the only one of its kind with annotations and index of rulings.

"And being proofread by lawyers and legal luminaries four times as a matter of quality control, the SCRA is also the most accurate," Sibal pointed out.

Cited in legal pleadings and SC rulings, the SCRA is also the only complete and updated set of 458 volumes, all readily available at all Central Books outlets nationwide.

Central Books also publishes the Quick Index Digest for easy cross-reference of various SC decisions on each subject or topic.

A complete set of the SCRA's 458 volumes is available at various affordable payment schemes. The SCRA set is what most people see at the backdrop inside prestigious law offices and libraries.

Among all popular bookstores, only Central Books got fully and competently specialized in the publication of law books because its founder Ernesto Y. Sibal was a practicing lawyer and a doctor of laws.

This grand old man of the publishing business has been succeeded by his son Jose Agaton, also a lawyer, as Central Books president since 1975.

Two of Jose Agaton R. Sibal's five children are now helping run the business as vice presidents. "My brother Carlos is the vice president for operations," Paolo said.

Aside from its very long list of published and available law books, Central Books also publishes and sells books on maritime, criminology, industrial relations, and management, among others. More details can be obtained from Central Books (tel. 3724807, 3744064; email salescentral@central.com.ph or central@central.com.ph; or visit www.central.com.ph).

Central Books' "On Demand Book Printing" or "Publish on Demand" system can print a complete book from a digital file to a professional perfect-bound book in a matter of minutes. The author can have his book sold throughout the country, both directly and through Central Books' eight outlets nationwide.

Firm shows innovations using simplicity-led design

ROYAL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS RECENTLY unveiled more than 25 new design concepts, demonstrating how the company's focus on "simplicity-led design" is likely to translate into new products over the coming three to five years across its entire healthcare, lifestyle and technology portfolio.

At The Simplicity Event at L'Espace Grande Arche in Paris, Gerard Kleisterlee, president and chief executive officer of Philips, also announced the introduction of Hands-free Interaction in the Hospital (HIH), a new kind of remote voice-control for equipment used in medical environments, as a major example of how the company's brand positioning of "sense and simplicity" is already benefiting customers.

"Our Simplicity Event marks a real milestone in the transformation of Philips into a truly market-driven company. Today, many companies recognize the role of design-led innovation. But we at Philips have gone one step further with a special differentiator in this area: we believe in simplicity-led design. We have focused and refined our thinking on design-led innovation and the result is simplicity-led design, which is our springboard to even greater innovation. In 2004, new products accounted for 38 percent of group revenues and for this year, our target is 42 percent," Kleisterlee said.

Supporting the company's commitment to "sense and simplicity," Philips also used the first anniversary of its brand positioning to unveil creative work from the second wave of its brand campaign for 2005.

Being rolled out in nine markets from September, including China, France, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Russia, Spain, UK and the US, the campaign will cover TV, print, outdoor and online media.

The event was also supported by the publication of the "Next Simplicity Book," to provide a full overview of the design concepts demonstrated in the showcase and to explain the simplicity-led thinking that was used in their development.

It also features a review of the work of the simplicity advisory board (SAB), a think tank created to advise and inspire Philips across a wide range of design-led issues.

The Paris event featured important presentations from Kleisterlee and Andrea Ragnetti, chief marketing officer, reporting on the deployment of the new brand positioning and showcasing the company's vision for the future.

Get local gov't to help...

From page B2-1

quent themselves.

Acknowledging the problem, Endriga says LGUs need to shape up. And he volunteers the use of the Quezon City model.

Quezon City, after suffering from budget deficits up to 2001, is now the richest city nationwide with a P16.5-billion income, according to the 2004 report of the Commission on Audit. It is now also one of the most religious in paying taxes among the LGUs.

The story on Quezon City's fiscal turnaround is recorded in the book written by Endriga entitled "The Roadmap to Financial Stability: The Experience of Quezon City."

Before Endriga assumed the treasurer's post in the Quezon City government, it was burdened with huge liabilities—to the BIR, to suppliers and contractors, and to the pension fund manager Government Service Insurance System, among others, due to rampant corruption and tax evasion. Its budget deficit reached P970 million.

Endriga says the basic formula for Quezon City's fiscal turnaround was political will. He credits Mayor Sonny Belmonte's commitment to implement reforms together with the Treasurer's Office.

According to his book, measures implemented to cure Quezon City's financial trouble included the following: adoption of "presumptive taxation," under which businesses are imposed a minimum amount of income to declare from which their tax payments should be based; granting discounts to early taxpayers and auctioning off properties of tax delinquents; grounding of revenue examiners with low collection records, and filing of graft charges against suspected corrupt city government employees and officials.

He says the fiscal reform measures undertaken by Quezon City, if adopted by other local governments, can help make them financially independent of the national government.

For Endriga, a country's fiscal health should emanate with the localities. A rich local government that provides appropriate basic services to its constituents will lessen the burden on the national government to implement various revenue-raising measures, such as the infamous VAT Reform Law that seeks to raise the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent staring next year.

"Local governments can contribute a lot in efforts to finally take the country out of the lingering fiscal problem, which has discouraged investments and dragged the economy down. All they need is political will," so says Endriga.

Compliance officers

CSI Corporate Securities Info
Raul Palabrica

IT MAY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH human nature, but enforcing government rules and regulations in the conduct of business is a cat-and-mouse game.

When there are gray areas in a law, lawyers will (as if by instinct) resolve the ambiguities in favor of their clients, for a fee, of course.

The standard excuse for taking advantage of loopholes in the law is, the lawyer's duty is to protect his client's interests and not of other parties, the government included.

The regulatory agencies have to be one step ahead if they want to win the battle of wits with the best legal minds money can buy.

No doubt, the threat of sanctions in case of non-compliance helps in the enforcement process. But with their limited manpower and resources, the regulators often fall short in their efforts to make the parties, whose activities they are tasked to oversee, to toe the line.

A middle ground of sorts between closely looking over the shoulders of companies and encouraging them to voluntarily comply with the rules is presently in place.

Compliance

Last year, the Securities and Exchange Commission, invoking its authority under the Securities Regulation Code, directed five businesses to have at least one "compliance officer" (CO), duly certified by the SEC, who will make sure their corporations follow regulatory safeguards, including the Code of Corporate Governance.

The companies covered by this requirement are financing companies, investment houses, fund managers/distributors, open-ended investment companies and pre-need companies.

These companies either lend money to the public or solicit investments from them with the promise of handsome returns in the future.

It is common knowledge that when money is involved, people can be very emotional for perceived iniquities or unfair treatment.

The COs act as the point persons whom the SEC can get in touch with (or hound) in case their companies fail to comply with reportorial and regulatory requirements.

The designation of COs is a departure from the past practice when corporate secretaries were sought out when there are questions about the accuracy or timeliness of corporate filings with the agency.

Examination

As a necessary consequence of their position, the COs also perform the role of "customer relations officers" of their companies to whom complaints brought to the SEC's attention by irate clients or customers are referred to for action.

To earn the CO certification, a candidate should pass a written examination conducted by the SEC that will test his proficiency and knowledge of the laws and regulations of the company he is associated with, and the Code of Corporate Governance.

The SEC conducts regularly seminar modules for prospective COs so they can get the education and expertise needed to pass the examination, and then later perform the duties and responsibilities of the position.

The consequences of the failure to comply with the certification requirement for the affected companies are quite stiff.

On top of the basic penalty of P10,000, a P500 fine is imposed for each day of delay in compliance. And if the defiance continues, the registration or authority of the company to engage in its business may be suspended.

Initial phase

You're probably wondering why, considering the number of corporations the SEC supervises, the certified CO requirement applies only to the five companies mentioned earlier.

The special treatment is explained by the fact that these are the corporations that at present, based on the agency's evaluation, require the presence of somebody who'll see to it that the company faithfully lives up to its reportorial and regulatory responsibilities.

The requirement will later be expanded to cover other corporations that sell securities to the public or are within the area of the supervision of the agency.

Incidentally, the SEC recently relaxed its rule on CO certification for certain financing companies.

The accreditation is compulsory only for those that have issued or are authorized to issue securities, such as, but not limited to, promissory notes, commercial papers, bonds and preferred shares whose redemption or payment of dividends is mandatory, that are still outstanding as of May 20, 2005.

(For comments or questions concerning this article, write to <rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph>.)

Meat and fish processing seminar

GOOD NEWS FOR THOSE WHO would like to learn how to process meat and fish. In line with the governments project to give jobs and business for those who would like to venture into meat and fish processing business, the Golden Treasure Skills and Development Program (GTSDP) will conduct a one-day seminar on "Meat and Fish Processing" to be held at the UPAA Alumni Center, Magsaysay Ave. cor. Ylanan St., University of the Philippines, Diliman, Quezon City on Oct. 1, 2005, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Among the topics to be discussed are sourcing of materials, costing, and entrepreneurship on how to start and maintain a business. Also there will be a hands-on for the making of tocino, skinless longganisa, embutido, siomai, chicken ham, bangus deboning, fishball, fish kikiam, fish fillet and fish burger. Bonus lecture: Corned beef and squid ball. Participants will receive a certificate of training right after the seminar. Lunch will be served and all the materials will be provided. Those who are interested to attend may call 427-2682, 421-8593, 952-4028, 952-2934 and 913-6551 for your reservation.

Making the tough calls

From page B4

willing to suffer the most over decisions but still retain their ability to be decisive."

Are tough calls worth all the time, energy and agony they involve? Absolutely. Why am I so sure? Because every time I've had to make a tough call in my life, it lifted my leadership to a higher level. In other words, it led to a breakthrough.

Read this very carefully: You are only one tough call away from a breakthrough. Isn't that encouraging? You get a breakthrough by making a call you don't want to make even though it's the right thing to do.

And when you make that call, you suddenly take yourself, your company or your family to a whole new level.

So go ahead. Make that tough call you've been putting off. Then fasten your seatbelt and prepare to rise to new heights.

(For information on John Maxwell's in-house or public leadership or teamwork workshops, please email us at maxwell@inspire.ph or call 813-2732/03 and ask for Gina. Text MAXWELL ON to 4632 (Smart) to get daily SMS leadership insights from John Maxwell.)

Awaken from the nightmare called MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp[1]. MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over areas of your scalp[2]. This is a progressive condition and chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[1], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL.

Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down continued hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown[1].

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

Don't lose sleep over MPHL. You just have to be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

For more information on the ProHAIR program call hotline number 878-6338.
You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR

Reference: 1. Libecco J and Bergfeld WF. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004;5(4):933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.

12-2005-PPC-05-PH-4005-AD

IF YOU WERE ABLE TO SELL A LOT OF THESE, JOIN THE 1st YOUNG MARKET MASTERS AWARDS

Young marketing professionals, now is your chance to sell your achievements in Mansmith and Fielders, Inc.'s 1st Young Market Masters Awards (1st YMMA). The 1st YMMA seeks to recognize and honor young achievers who excel in marketing and entrepreneurship and to inspire a new generation of innovative marketing professionals.

The 1st YMMA is open to any Filipino citizen, 35 years and younger (by the end of the year of nomination) with at least 2 full years of service with his or her company at the time of nomination.

Two categories are open for nomination. The Marketing Category is open to young achievers who may be called marketing manager, brand manager, trade marketing manager, account manager and the like.

The Entrepreneur Category seeks to honor the owner or part-owner of an enterprise who are the main catalyst of the business.

Early submission of entries shall be on Oct. 28, 2005. Absolute deadline is on Nov. 25, 2005. For complete mechanics, reach us through our contact details below.

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BUSINESSMonday

Making the tough calls

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

CLOSING A SMALL-TOWN PLANT THAT employs hundreds of residents. Firing a key staff member. Acquiring another company. Dissolving a longtime business relationship.

Ninety-five percent of the decisions a CEO makes likely could be made by a reasonably intelligent eighth-grader. But the CEO gets paid for the other 5 percent for making tough calls like the ones I just described.

What exactly is a tough call? It's a decision you know you should make because it will help you and/or your company, but you often hesitate to make it for a host of reasons some good and some not-so-good.

You may be nodding your head as you read, traveling down memory lane to a time when you had to make a tough call. In fact, that's one way to identify tough calls—you definitely remember them. And every time you think of them, you groan.

That's just the way it is with a tough call. It doesn't matter how much time has passed since you made the decision, it still makes you groan.

Every tough call that I've made in my life had the following things in common:

1. It required much energy, time and prayer.

The decision didn't just make me tired; it sapped my strength. And I had to go to God often with one simple request: "Help me, help me, help me."

2. It demanded a risk.

If there's no risk involved, you're not making a tough call.

3. It was questioned and criticized.

I've never made a tough call that prompted everyone in my company to proclaim, "Oh, what a wise man you are." I have, however, made tough calls that made them say, "That was one of the stupidest things we've ever seen you do."

My point is this: If you make a decision that brings unanimous approval, it wasn't a tough call.

4. It cost me greatly.

Sometimes it cost me financially, sometimes it cost me relationships, and sometimes it only cost me sleep. But trust me, the cost was high.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out why people are often hesitant to make tough calls. But if you're a leader, you might as well accept the fact that tough calls are part of your job description. They're not optional; they're a requirement.

Tough calls will never be painless, but you can make the process a bit easier by following these five steps:

1. Do your homework.

Never make a tough call on the spur of the moment. If you do, I guarantee you'll regret it. Instead, research all your options and the ramifications of each one.

Evaluate the decision from the perspectives of all the people or groups who might be affected. List the pros and cons. Don't give due diligence the short shrift.

2. Set a deadline.

Why is a deadline necessary? Because when it comes to tough calls, we tend to procrastinate. So set a time limit for your decision and stick to it.

3. Seek counsel from the right people.

When you're contemplating a tough call, talk it over with a trusted, objective outsider who knows your business and can help you see things you may have missed in your homework.

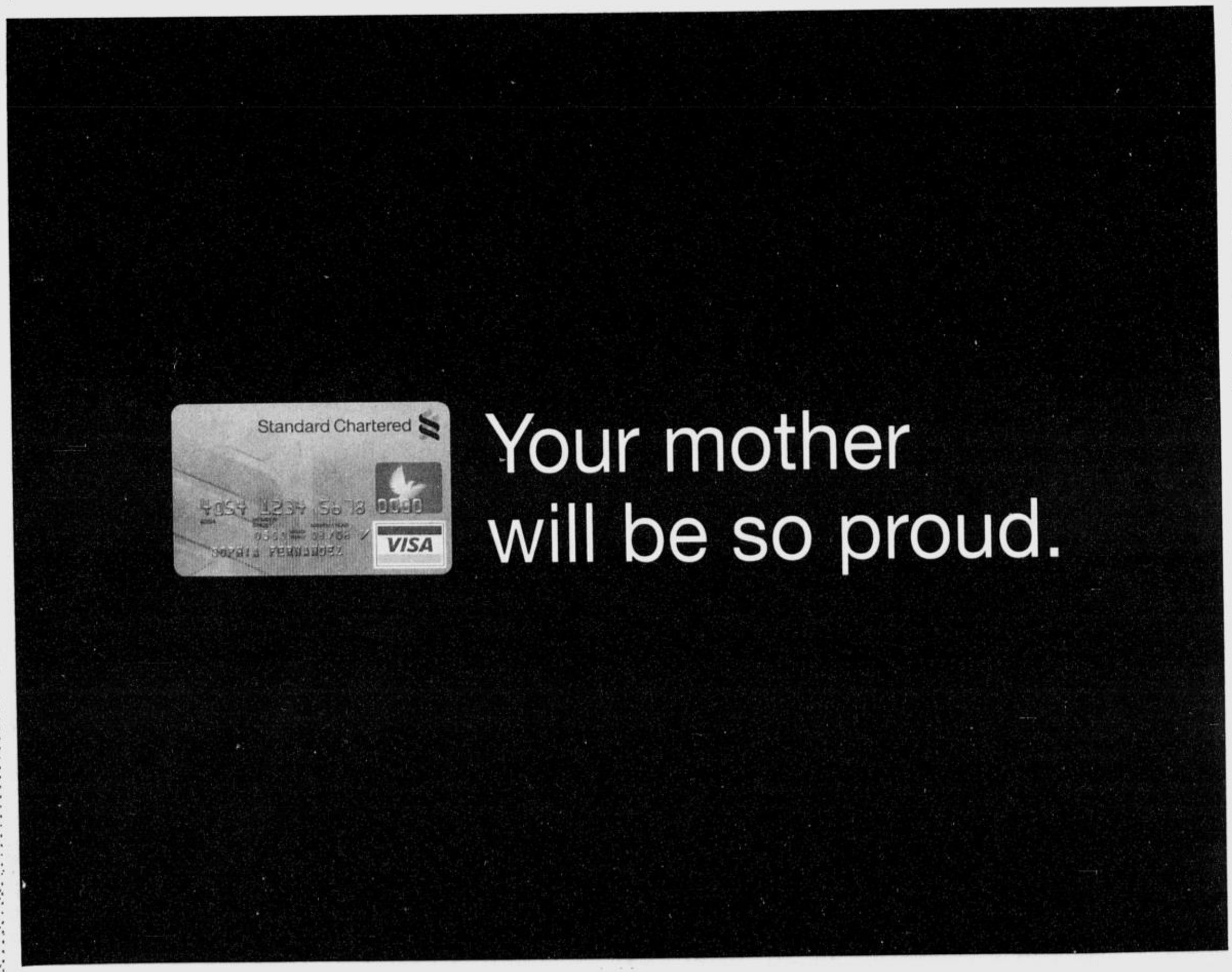
4. Make your decisions on principles and values that you believe in.

That makes your tough calls consistent with who you are, what you teach and what you believe.

5. Understand the emotions of making the tough call.

Scott Peck was right when he said, "The best decision-makers are those who are

MAKING/ B3



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4821, Series of 2005

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

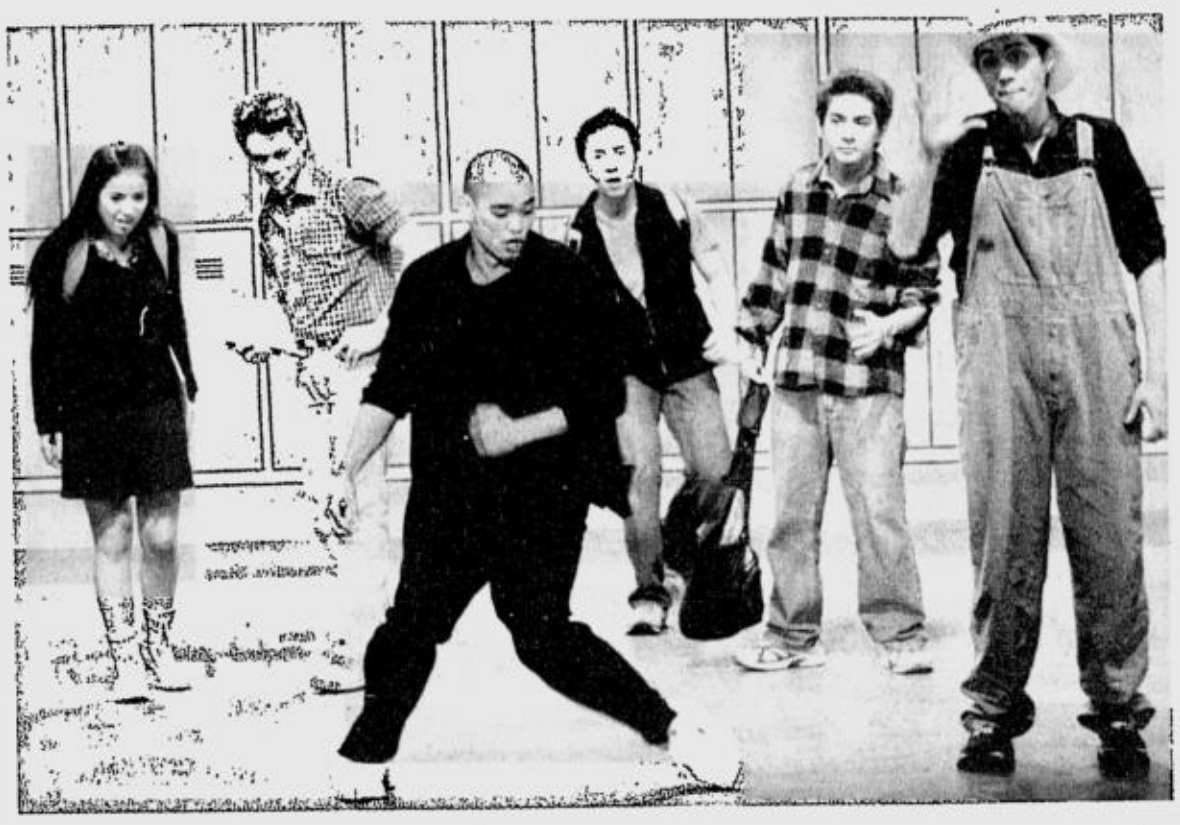
The Ford Motor Company Conservation and Environmental Grants is one of the world's largest environmental and conservation grants schemes, offering funding in over 50 countries, including the Philippines.

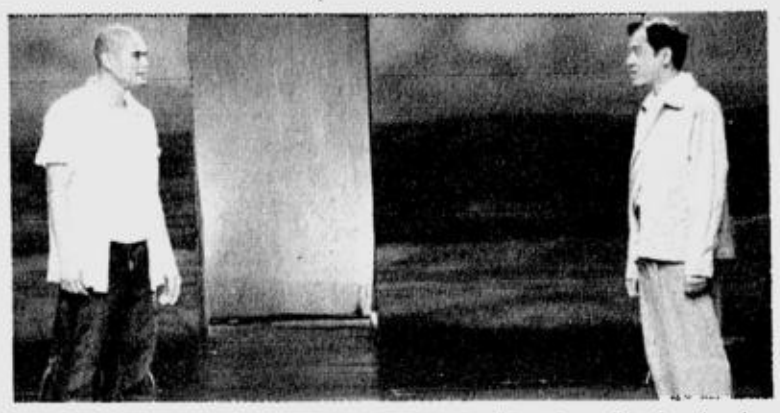
The Grants program is open to everyone working on the preservation of the environment and supporting conservation in a notable manner.

Get your application forms at your nearest Ford or Mazda dealership or visit www.ford.com.ph or www.ecoford.com to download the forms. The deadline for the submission of entries is on September 30, 2005.

Management according to 'Footloose'

By Butch Jimenez
Vice President, PLDT
Contributor





FROM A management perspective, the play "Footloose" is the classic tension between a manager who has closed his mind to new ideas and the young idealist trying to break new ground.

"IF YOU DON'T TRUST THEM, how can you teach them to be trustworthy?"

That was the conclusion of the most powerful man in a conservative city after realizing it doesn't work to box people in with stringent rules that it stifles their creativity, spirit, and freedom.

If you think I got that from the latest management book, surprise! I didn't. I got it from the hit musical presently running at the Meralco Theater, entitled, "Footloose."

For those who grew up in the era of the early '80's, there is no way the soundtrack of this movie could have escaped you. For some reason, though the movie was forgettable, the music and the message hit home to many young people aching to be heard. From this one movie came hit songs, "Let's hear it for the boy", "Almost Paradise", and of course the title track, "Footloose" by Kenny Loggins.

The story is straightforward, simple and even shallow. A free-spirited big city kid, Ren McCormack moves to a small unknown conservative Christian city of Beaumont whose most powerful man is the Reverend Shaw Moore. After Moore's teenage son is killed in a car accident, Moore turns cold and legalistic and convinces the city council which he controls to pass a law making drinking, drugs and even dancing a crime.

Though his intentions are to protect the kids from going astray, the first to drift away and rebel from his suffocating ways is his teenage daughter Ariel who falls in love with the rebel city kid. Ren convinces his schoolmates to help him go against Reverend Moore and asks the council to lift the law against dancing. How Ren gets through the heart of Reverend Moore and helps him realize how closed his mind has become is giving too much of the story away. You'll have to watch the play to see that dramatic face off. But in the end, everyone "kicks off their Sunday shoes and cuts footloose."

Classic tension

From a management perspective, "Footloose" is the classic tension between a manager who has closed his mind to new ideas and the young idealist trying to break new ground. In such situations, both have convincing arguments and in most cases are only looking after the company's best interest. But in today's fast changing world, the 21st century manager can no longer afford to close their minds. Flexibility, quickness, and the ability to adjust becomes a key ingredient to sustainability and success.

The question then becomes, why do managers box their people in? The answer in many cases is trust. Either they feel their people will exploit the freedom, or that their people cannot deliver. That's exactly how Reverend Moore felt. If he allowed the kids to dance, they would start drinking, then taking drugs and eventually destroy their lives. So he outlawed dancing and every form of entertainment not realizing that he also outlawed the young people's spirits, creativity, and freedom.

Many managers have the same viewpoint as Reverend Moore. They look at their employees and conclude that given some level of freedom, their people will exploit it and destroy the company. Or they look at their employees and conclude that if they were given the power to make decisions, they would mess it up. And so they set up rules to watch the employees' every move, and assign more employees to watch co-employees, and then add more rules to those watching the employees until the rules have reached ridiculous proportions and the employee is virtually handcuffed. The irony of it is that managers who don't trust their people and tie them down almost always expect their employees to soar. Try soaring with a 100 lb. steel ball chained to your leg.

I am not against rules. In fact, they are important to keep some semblance of order in anything we do. What is key however is to strike a balance. Rules should be designed to guide people, not imprison them. Which brings me to another reason—why some managers impose severe do's and don'ts on their peoplecontrol? Look deep inside the heart of Reverend Moore and you'll see that's what he wanted to do. He wanted to control his daughter, control the kids, and control the town. He did it under the guise of concern, and he may have been sincere, but in reality it was all about control.

Reverend Moore wasn't always like that. In fact, his wife told him, "You used to be so inspiring. You could lift people up so high they would have to look down to see God."

What a leader should be

Now that's what a real manager or leader should be. Inspiring. In contrast to Moore, Ren, who seemed to be the rebel, was the real leader. He stood up for what he believed to be right, and lifted up the downtrodden spirits of the young people in his town. And that's why in the end, even Reverend Moore trusted him, and followed him.

For all of us who have difficulty trusting our people, our colleagues, our kids, our youth, I repeat Reverend Moore's conclusion, "If we don't trust them, how can we teach them to be trustworthy?"

"Footloose" isn't a management seminar, far from it. It's a fun musical with lots of singing, dancing, humor and fun. But I guarantee you, some lessons will hit home. At the very least, you'll learn new dance steps as everyone "cuts footloose!"

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She gave up dentistry to sell Indon treasures

DR. MARYANN FUCOY FINISHED Dentistry at the University of the East College of Dentistry in 1983 and practiced her profession dutifully for 13 years. After all it was considered a lucrative profession at that time. However in 1997, her husband Nicky, an Industrial Engineer, was posted in Indonesia so she quit her practice and lived in Surabaya for two years.

While in Indonesia, Maryann joined an organization of women expatriates, went around the country and got to know Indonesian history, culture and products. Among the things that appealed most to Maryann were Indonesian furniture and decorative items made from teakwood. She learned that teakwood could be found in Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and some parts of Southern Philippines but the best variety comes from Java. Teakwood is more durable than other types of wood since woodworms cannot eat it.

This learning experience gave her the idea of starting a new business venture in import wholesale and retail. With $10,000 (the exchange rate then was only P26), Maryann bought ten pieces of furniture.

"I made sure that every article was well selected", she recalls.

To her amazement, she sold the lot very easily when she went back to the Philippines.

Maryann immediately rented a place in BF Homes Las Piñas, near their home, and used this as her depot. She got a space in two malls before finding out that Festival Supermall in Alabang was opening Treasure Trove, a specialty-store lane specially designed for shoppers looking for rare souvenirs, unusual gift items and accent pieces.

"I felt that that this was the opportunity I was looking for so I lost no time in booking a 21 square meter space for my products. My choice for my store's name was Indo Treasures since I consider all the goods as things to be treasured by my customers", Fucoy explains.

Indo Treasures looks impressive with its Palembang and Madurese window mirrors, primitive type cabinets without hinges that will look good in living rooms or dining areas, buffet cabinet, a 50-year old open-type bookcase and colorful Peti chests that were made by Indonesian woodcarvers using the difficult process of Bakaran or burning wood.

Indo treasures, likewise, boasts of an assortment of Terra Cotta candleholders from Lamongan and East Java and what she calls as Indonesian Alternatif Art, which drew inspiration from Mexican Arts. These are elephant and rabbit statuettes made of Balsa Wood and painted with flashy colors. Other bestsellers are the wooden wind chimes and Ang Klug bamboo chimes, flower vases, rattan mats and Indonesian native musical instruments like the Karimba, Maracas and Widgeredo.

DR. MARYANN Fucoy, an accidental entrepreneur.

According to Maryann, since she opened Indo Treasures two months ago, business has been very brisk and she looks forward to bringing more treasured items from Indonesia. Her advice to would be entrepreneurs, "Be patient enjoy what you do, and be determined to pursue what you have started."

Indo Treasures is located at the Festival Supermall in the Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

From 'gimik' place to alternative for shoppers

By Abigail L. Ho

A ONCE POPULAR *GIMIK* PLACE turning into a virtual ghost town—not very good elements for any property developer.

But instead of losing heart, St. Francis Square developer ASB Group turned the setback into an opportunity to explore something new.

Within the fourth quarter, St. Francis Square, once a popular hang-out place in the Ortigas area will join the roster of Mandaluyong's popular shopping establishments—SM Megamall and Shangri-La Mall—albeit with a twist. It will become the St. Francis Square Tiangge—a fully air-conditioned tiangge with at least 1,500 stalls to cater to bargain hunters.

Saddled with more problems than just one property no longer yielding as much revenue as it used to, St. Francis Square senior vice president Edgardo Tenedero says ASB management was forced to think of something to do with the property.

ST. FRANCIS Square used to be the in place to go to for dining or hanging out. Now it aims to be the destination of shoppers.

After almost a year of brainstorming, the St. Francis Square Tiangge was born.

But why another shopping establishment when SM Megamall, Shangri-La Mall and even the nearby Podium and Robinsons Galleria are already in the area?

"We're doing market niching. We're not going to compete with SM Megamall or Podium or any of those existing malls. We won't try to be like the big malls because we know we won't be able to compete. What we're going to do is complement our competitors-offer shoppers something that they can't get from the malls," Tenedero says.

He said the St. Francis Square Tiangge's flea market concept would be a great come-on, especially for bargain-conscious Pinoys who enjoy haggling for great finds.

The St. Francis Square Tiangge is not a pioneer in the flea market concept. Shopalics have long been scouring Divisoria, the Greenhills Shopping Complex, Baclaran, and other tiangge stalls in the metro to look for chic yet affordable merchandise.

Tenedero says what sets them apart is their location and comfortable shopping environment.

"It is also very accessible, reachable via almost any mode of public transport," he says.

Located just behind SM Megamall, at the corner of Julia Vargas and Bank Drive in Ortigas, shoppers can access the shopping center via the MRT, public bus or even FX taxis.

Merchandise will be categorized and lumped together in specific areas.

St. Francis hopes to be a one-stop of bargains—from RTW, shoes and bags, jewelry, furniture, home décor, mobile phones and accessories. It will have a food court at the basement and a drug store—something that other tiangges do not usually have.

It hopes to capture "spillover" shoppers from SM Megamall and the other big malls in the area.

St. Francis Square Tiangge will extend its shopping hours during midnight sales at SM Megamall or the other malls, "to take advantage of the spillovers."

He added that the tiangge also targets "accidental shoppers," or employees from the offices in the area who had no plans of shopping but who pass the area.

Tenedero says the ASB Group will set up a giant billboard, claiming it will be the biggest in the world, on one of its Ortigas' properties to advertise the tiangge.

They will also have newspaper advertising.

Ads for have been generating around 30 inquiry calls daily from interested tenants and shoppers.

St. Francis Tiangge will also be holding a promo, "Tiangge from the Sky" to create awareness.

Barely a month before its grand opening, Tenedero expresses confidence that the St. Francis Square Tiangge would present a different shopping experience to the budget-conscious Pinoy with its strategic location and comfortable shopping environment.

TBWA/SMP is agency of the year

By Angel Guerrero

TBWA SANTIAGO MANGADA Puno, was declared the best advertising agency in the country during the Agency of the Year Awards organized by the 4As.

The country's highly competitive advertising industry evaluated itself against an evolving marketing landscape where client's expectations continue to challenge how an advertising agency operates and to look beyond traditional advertising solutions.

The awards night themed "A Different Ballgame" was held at the Adidas Kamp at the Fort.

Only four years in the business, TBWA/SMP surged past the country's largest and most established agency McCann-Erickson to win the "Agency of the Year" title for the second time in a row. McCann-Erickson has won the title five times in the eight years of the competition. The top five contenders for the "Agency of the Year" award were BBDO Guerrero Ortega, Campaigns & Grey, JimenezBasic, McCann-Erickson and TBWA/SMP.

All gained top tier slots as they entered, competed and scored well in the different categories: Creative; Market Performance; Management of Business; and, Industry Leadership and Community Service. One has to, however, be a category winner or a finalist in "Best in Creative" plus garner the highest average score to be named "Agency of the Year". The playing field was narrowed down to McCann and TBWA/SMP.

The heavyweight award of "Best in Creative" which recognizes creative excellence across the media was won by TBWA/SMP whose creative is led by Melvin Mangada. Their entries, the agency's six best ads were—Cinemanila "Kitano" and Oxygen "Underground" TV commercials; Boysen "Pyramids" print ad; Adidas "Sculpture" poster; KFC "Demo" radio commercial; and in interactive, Nizoral "Scratch Boy". Points were also given to the local and international creative awards the agency has won.

TBWA/SMP also took home the "Best in Market Performance Award" for the KFC Chik'n Fillet Sandwich "Sandwich Lickin' Good" campaign whose challenge was to convince teens that it is worth buying the sandwich over loading their cellphones. The "Lov'emall" campaign for Ayala Malls dealt with building an emotional bond with customers drawing them into the malls.

McCann took the prize for "Best in Management of Business" an accolade they have won seven times out of eight. The agency, headed by Patricia Arches, is acknowledged to be the industry's best managed organization with financial soundness envied by many. The agency also won the "Best in Industry Leadership and Community Service" award every year since the competition started in 1997.

It is also interesting to note that this year's result is a repeat of last year's winner lists.

The results were difficult to predict said Patricia Arches, Chairman of the competition, "the quality of entries were notably higher this year and therefore tougher to judge", and further adds that, "the standards of excellence in our industry just gets better and better each year. Everyone seems determined to win and has given it their best shot!"

THE AGENCY'S staff during the awards night.

The evolving marketing landscape, how we compete, how we deal with the demands of clients, changes in fee structuring from the standard fifteen percent commission, the unbundling of media, have changed old paradigms of how a full-service agency traditionally operates.

As Lizelle Maralag, managing director of Starcom, states, "the change will be driven by economics and lifestyle changes of consumers. Cellphones are already classified as a mass medium. Consumers are more exposed to other media options beyond TV, radio and print. Next year will be tough—we are faced with rising costs of oil and petroleum, the VAT and the political climate. We will continue to change."

Conference to discuss potentials of cooperatives

VAST BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AWAIT many of the country's 28,000 operating cooperatives.

These opportunities will be discussed at Business Opportunities 2006, to be held at the Philippine International Convention Center on Oct. 5-6.

Organized by the Philippine Small & Medium Business Development Foundation Inc. (Philsmed) and the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA), the two-day event will address the specific needs of cooperatives and other business enterprises.

This was announced by Philsmed president Mina T. Gabor, citing the cooperatives as the country's most dynamic but largely untapped business engines.

"There are at least 10 billionaire cooperatives, some of them with over 75,000 members. If properly harnessed, their collective power can help create growth miracles all over the country," added newly-appointed CDA Chair Bing Juarez.

For businessmen and service providers, Business Opportunities '06 offers opportunity to work, interact and establish strategic financial and marketing alliances with some of these cooperatives, 85 percent of them are engaged in credit and loans.

For cooperatives, the two-day event features discussions by business experts and consultants on strategies, mechanisms and structures and a priceless opportunity for networking to expand their business horizons.

Business Opportunities '06 is also a three-in-one event that covers a product development clinic, a business opportunities forum, and the 2nd Business Excellence Awards for SMEs (small and medium enterprises).

Free to the participants, the product development clinic will help cooperatives improve the design, packaging and marketability of their products through the guidance of merchandise designers and marketing specialists.

With the theme "Cooperatives—Creating Opportunities for All", the business opportunities forum (BizCoops'06) will enable the cooperatives to gain information on trends and other important issues affecting them, provide a venue for networking and cooperation among them and government and non-government agencies, enhance their capabilities to cope with the demands of the times and make them more competitive, and generate additional business opportunities by helping them develop their entrepreneurial skills.

BizCoops '06 focuses on various types of partnerships that individuals and businesses can venture into. It also features foreign speakers and specialists provided by the Asian Productivity Organization (APO-Japan), together with seasoned resource persons from different industries who will discuss local and global opportunities and prospects in such areas as financing, information technology, novice marketing, asset management, technologies, product development, and best practices.

The Business Excellence Awards is the highest recognition given to Filipino SMEs for business excellence and leadership. The winners will receive cash prizes, trophy, and free booth at the Philsmed fair.

Deadline for submission of entries is Sept. 25, 2005. More details are available at Philsmed (call 8342994, 8320996, or visit www.philsmed.com.ph).

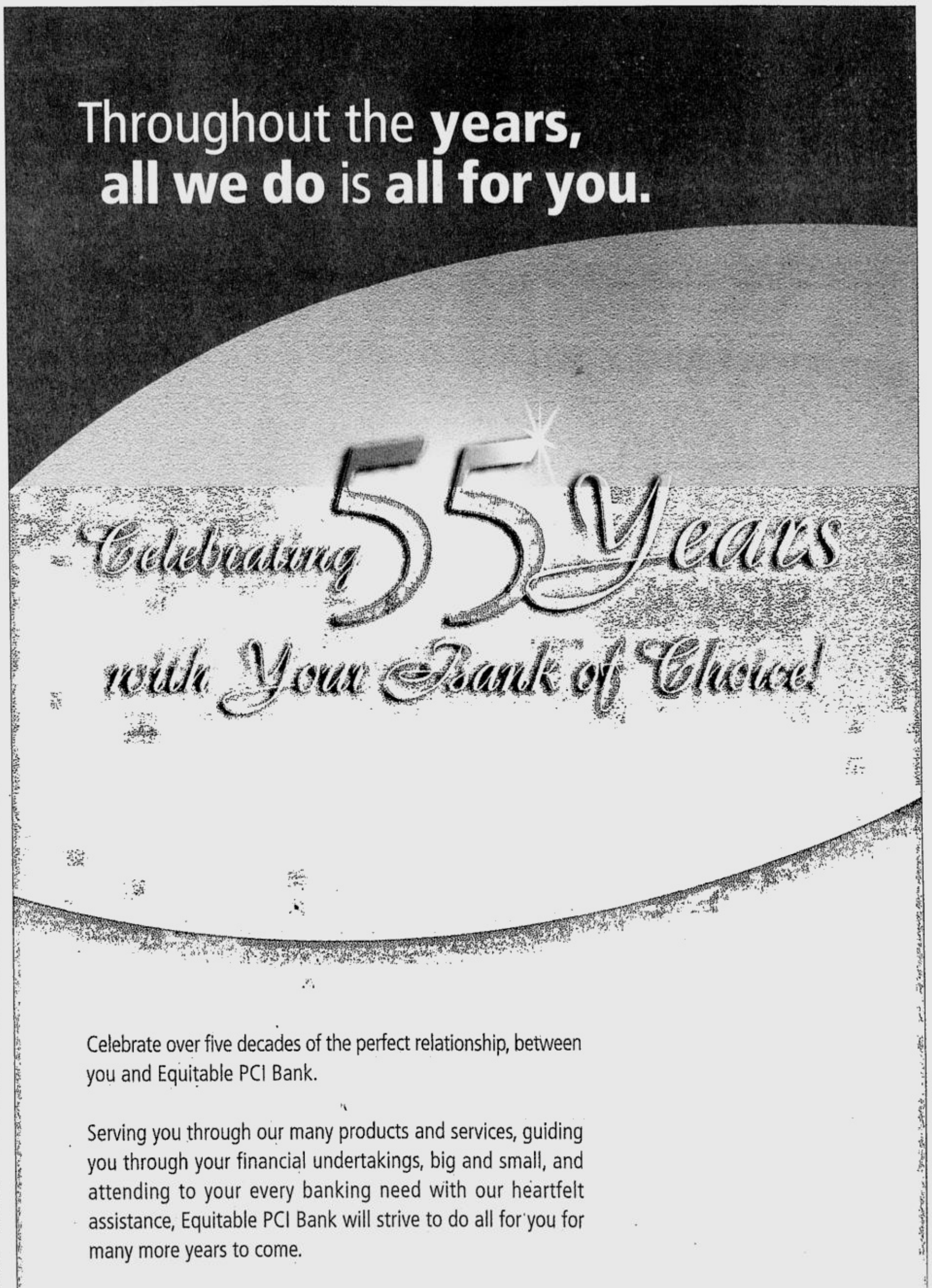
On the wings . . .

From page B3-4

duction/operations, organization/management, and finance. They were also able to point out areas for improvement in the students' feasibility studies.

"This [course] will really help us a lot because topics that were only briefly discussed in our major subjects were explained in greater detail here," says Herminigildo Chua, one of the participants, in the vernacular.

Some of the graduates are due for release over the next months. Their diplomas, symbolizing entrepreneurship values, skills and attitudes, just might serve as tickets to a new and productive life outside.



BUSINESS Monday

On the wings of entrepreneurship

Jailbirds can definitely be taught to fly again

By Jefferson C. Sumalabe
Contributor, UP ISSI

CYNICS AND SKEPTICS MAY raise their eyebrows. But for the inmates of the Medium Security Compound in the New Bilibid Prisons (NBP) in Muntinlupa, otherwise known as Camp Sampaguita, there is still hope after their fall from grace.

And the way back is guided by the torch of education, propelled by the wings of entrepreneurship.

Surprising though it may be to most of us, inside Camp Sampaguita are facilities that offer free education to interested inmates.

There is a non-formal school for those who cannot read and write, an annex of the Itaas Elementary School and a branch of the Muntinlupa National High School. There is also a vocational training school under TESDA offering courses that include electronics, refrigeration technology and carpentry.

The highest learning institution inside the camp is an extension school of the University of Perpetual Help System-Dalta. Set up sometime in 1984, it offers qualified inmates an opportunity to obtain a bachelor's degree in commerce, major in entrepreneurship. The course spans four years and is aimed at equipping the inmates with the proper skills to help them set up their own businesses.

STUDENTS sweat through a final exam.

Why entrepreneurship

Why entrepreneurship, one may ask? According to Dr. Resurrecion Morales, the chief of the NBP's education section, former convicts have a difficult time finding jobs because of their records as criminals. They are thus better off if they engaged in their own businesses, no matter how small, so that they can be productive members of society.

Acceptance into the degree program, however, is not a walk in the park. As with other colleges, interested applicants still have to undergo a screening process. They have to submit their transcripts of records and take an IQ exam. Most importantly, they have to pass the interview where their psychological make-up and readiness for schooling are assessed.

Once accepted, they are treated like regular students. Aside from the rules of the prison, they also have to abide by the regulations of the college. These include wearing of decent attire and their ID's during class hours.

Classes are held in a one-storey building, which used to serve as military barracks, from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays to Fridays. Student-teacher volunteers also hold classes during weekends.

Although the student-inmates are way older than their counterparts outside prison (24 to 50 years old for the student-inmates), they behave not too differently. They painstakingly prepare for quizzes, sweat their way through recitations, burn the midnight oil for reports, and yes, cram for exams.

And for those who will be graduating, they also spend sleepless nights thinking over that most dreaded of all requirements: the thesis paper, which is in their case the project feasibility study. As the major is entrepreneurship, they are required to come up with a business concept and determine its feasibility and viability.

Fortunately for this year's seniors, Assistant Solicitor General Karl Miranda, a teacher-volunteer, asked Director Ruperto Alonzo of the University of the Philippines Institute for Small-Scale Industries (UP ISSI) to give a lecture on entrepreneurship last March. Says Prof. Alonzo, "I was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge I saw among the 100-plus inmates who attended." Dr. Morales then requested UP ISSI for a training course related to entrepreneurship development. As luck would have it, the program chosen was a short course on project feasibility study preparation.

The course was made part of UP ISSI's advocacy program for the year and lasted for ten consecutive Fridays, from July to September. It was managed by Mrs. Clarita O. Esteban and fielded UP ISSI's trainers. These experts taught the students the systematic approach in the preparation of feasibility studies, covering the four major areas of business: marketing, pro-

ON THE WINGS/ B3-3

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...for Businessmen & Service Providers

Catch an excellent opportunity to work, interact, and establish strategic financial and marketing alliances with some of these 28,000 operating cooperatives in the country.

...for Cooperatives

Featuring discussions by business experts and consultants on strategies, mechanisms and structures and a priceless opportunity for networking to expand business horizons for your cooperatives.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

FIRST DAY
October 5, 2005

8:00 - 10:00 Registration and Networking
10:00 10:15 Coffee Break
10:15 - 10:30 Opening of the Product Development Clinic
10:30 11:00 Opening Ceremony (Forum Proper)
National Anthem
Invocation

11:00 - 11:45 1st Plenary Session: "Proactive Coop Set Up"
Speaker Mr Shi Kwan Lee, Regional Director for the Asia Pacific International Cooperative Alliance
Region
Reactor Mr. Ruben M. Conti, Associate Dean, Graduate School Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)
Mr. Rodolfo Cañeda, Administrator, Cooperative Development Authority
Mr. Felix Borja, Secretary-General, Cooperative Union of the Philippines

11:45 - 12:00 Open Forum
12:00 - 12:45 Lunch/Raffle Draw
12:45 - 1:15 Entertainment/Intermission
1:15 - 1:30 Globe IT Solutions for SMEs
Ms. Agnes Celeste D. Fernando, Head, Globe's SME Sales Channel, Sales & Distribution, Consumer Business Group

1:30 1:45 Open Forum
1:45 2:00 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw

2:00 - 2:45 2nd Plenary Session: "IT Improves Coop Networking"
Speaker Secretary Virgilio L. Peña, Commission on Information and Communication Technology
Reactors Mr. David J. Pejaron, Jr., General Manager, Philippine Federation of Credit Cooperatives
Mr. Horacio Cadiz, Philippine Network Foundation

2:45 - 3:00 Open Forum
3:00 - 3:15 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
3:15 - 4:15 3rd Plenary Session: "Novice Marketing for Cooperatives"
Speaker Dr. Mina T. Gaber, Ph D., President, PHILSMED
Reactors Asst. Sec. Felicitas Agoncillo-Reyes, Executive Director, Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM)
Mr. Donald Patrick Lim, President, Philippine Marketing Association

4:15 - 4:30 Open Forum
4:30 - 6:00 Networking/Product Consultancy

SECOND DAY
October 6, 2005

8:45 - 9:45 4th Plenary Session: "Product Development Ensures Sustainability of Cooperative Sales"
Speaker Mr. Ricky Manuel, Founder & CEO, Green Mango Trading

9:45 - 10:00 Open Forum
10:00 - 10:15 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
10:15 - 10:45 5th Plenary Session: "Importance of Asset Management To Cooperatives"
Speaker Mr. Gilda Pico, Acting President, LandBank of the Philippines
Reactor Atty. Renato Fernandez, Chairman, Metro South Cooperative Bank
10:45 - 11:00 Open Forum
11:00 - 11:45 6th Plenary Session: "Breaking Barriers: Continuous Education For Cooperatives"
Speaker Mr. Ruben M. Conti, Associate Dean, Graduate School Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila (PLM)
Reactor Dr. Eulogio T. Castillo, Director, Agricultural Credit and Cooperative Institute (ACCI), UP Los Baños
11:45 - 12:00 Open Forum
12:00 - 12:30 Lunch/Raffle Draw
12:30 - 1:30 2nd Business Excellence Award for SME's (separate program)
1:30 - 2:30 7th Plenary Session: Green Technology for Global Acceptance of Coop Produce"
Speaker Undersecretary Salvador Salacup, Department of Agriculture
Reactors Ms. Mary Ann P. Sayoc, General Manager, East-West Seed Company
Mr. Jerry Pacturan, Executive Director, Philippine Development Assistant Programme, Inc.
2:30 - 2:45 Open Forum
2:45 - 3:00 Coffee Break/Raffle Draw
3:00 - 4:00 8th Plenary Session: "Experiences and Futures: Credit, Savings and Cooperative Financing"
Speakers Mr. Ranjith Hettiarachchi, CEO, Association of Asian Confederation of Credit Unions
Ms. Lecira V. Juarez, Chairperson, Cooperative Development Authority
Reactor Mr. Nelson Buenaflor, President, Quezon Corporation
Mr. Crescente Paez, CEO, NATTCO Central Fund, National Confederation of Cooperatives
4:00 - 4:15 Open Forum
4:15 6:00 9th Plenary Session: "Best Practices of Successful Cooperatives"
Speakers Mr. Rico Geron, General Manager, Soco Soco Ibaba Development Cooperative
Ms. Mylene De Ocampo, Marketing Manager, LIMCOMA
Dr. Crispina C. Rafol, Vice Chairman, CAFFMACO
Mr. Roberto Mascariña, General Manager, Barangka Credit Cooperative
Ms. Tita Vinuesa, General Manager, NOVADEC
Guest Presentor Mr. Haresh Melwani, CEO, HLN Pharma Inc.

Reactors Undersecretary Rogelio Panlasigui, Department of Science & Technology
Mr. Joel C. Enriquez, President/Design Director, Luna Designs
Mr. Reimon O. Gutierrez, Architect, Consultant, Designer
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For more details please contact:
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Cooperative Development Authority (CDA)
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E-mail cda_oc@cda.gov.ph

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

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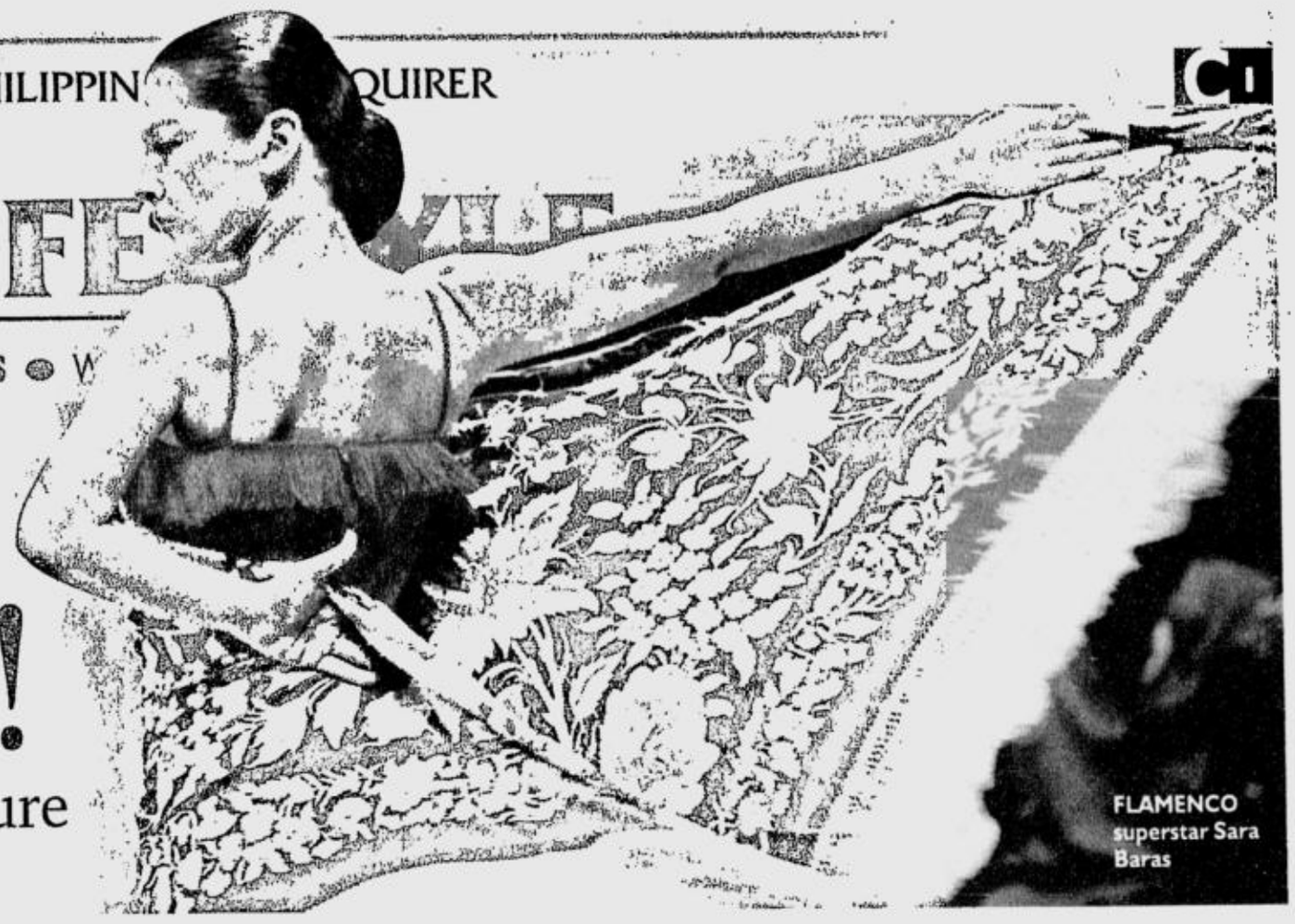
LIFE VILLE

MONDAY **ARTS & BOOKS** • TUESDAY **FITNESS** • W

Come to the Fiesta!

This year's Spanish arts and culture festival is bigger, brighter



FLAMENCO superstar Sara Baras

THE GLOBAL VIBRANCY and acceptability of Spanish arts and culture could be gleaned from Spain's two great exports—flamenco and film. Both would be in great evidence in this year's Fiesta, the annual Spanish festival of culture and the arts.

Perhaps the biggest news this year is that Sara Baras, the global superstar of flamenco, is coming to Manila for a single performance on Oct. 11 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP). Together with her troupe, Baras will perform her acclaimed traditional flamenco show, "Sueños" (Dreams). It is remote if Manilans and expatriates would have another chance to see Baras again in the near future as she is booked until 2008, according to Instituto Cervantes director Javier Galvan.

The other big news is that the Instituto and the Spanish embassy have prepared a bigger and better Spanish film festival, with generous selections from the cinemas of Spanish-speaking countries such as Argentina, Mexico and Chile.

The highlight of the festival is the showing of "Mar Adentro" (The Sea Inside) by Alejandro Amenabar and "Todo Sobre Mi Madre" (All About My Mother) by Pedro Almodovar, winners of the Oscar Best Foreign Language Film in 2004 and 2000. The fact that Spain has already won twice the Oscar foreign-language award in the new century testifies to the new strength of Spanish cinema, one of the world's top cinemas.

The festival seems to be a mini tribute to Amenabar as two more films of his—"Tesis" (1996) and "Abre Los Ojos" (1997)—will be shown. The latter is the original film on which Cameron Crowe based his movie "Vanilla Sky," and stars Penelope Cruz. Amenabar, it must be remembered, also did "Los Otros" (2001), which was the basis of the hit Holly-

COME/ C4

PENELOPE Cruz in "Abre los Ojos"

SPANISH Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz will lead the festival opening at Greenbelt 3.

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VISUAL ARTS

Cerda and Panes at Genesis, Garcia at West

GALLERY GENESIS PRESENTS "TUBIG AT LANGIS" BY TOTI CERDA AND Bert Panes on Sept. 28-Oct. 11 at Art Center, 4/L Megamall A. Cerda is a multi-awarded watercolorist known for his suite of children's activities while Panes is an oil painter. Call 6338137 to 38.

NONA Garcia returns to the scene of the crime, painting images and phantasms provoked by therecent break-in at her family's home. "Scene of the Crime" runs on Sept. 29-Oct. 11. West Gallery.is at the Artwalk, 4/L Megamall A. Call 6341284.

"UNAHAN sa Tuktok," by Toti Cerda

GREAT Image is holding an exhibit of works by 33 Great Image photographers, Sept. 28-29, at Atrium SM Megamall. Audiences will receive Great Image certificates when they vote for the best photo on exhibit.

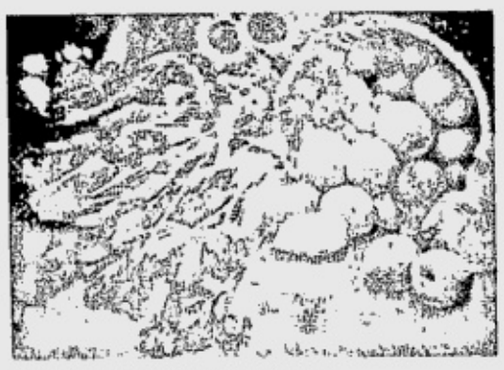
YASMIN Sison and Mariano Ching present "Innocent When You Dream" on Sept. 29-Oct. 11 at Finale Art Gallery in Megamall A. The artists use dream-like imagery of children and toys as metaphor for youth.

IN "THE WORLD at My Feet," Phyllis Zaballero explores new ground, literally. The exhibit will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 13 at the Museum Space of Ayala Museum, 2/F Grass Wing, Greenbelt Park, Makati Ave. and Dela Rosa St., Makati. Call 8319990/ 8339815.

THE BATANG Pinoy Artists Cordillera Chapter will exhibit on Oct. 1-10 at the Philippine Embassy in London; Oct. 12-20, France; Oct. 23-31, Rome.

THE BIG & Small Art Co. mounts Benjo Elayda's "Why Does It Do What It Does" until Oct. 7 at the Artwalk, 4/F Megamall A. The new mixed-media works tell viewers about "undecidable" signs. Call 3742437/ 6877425.

PINTO Art Gallery presents three simultaneous solo exhibitions of Alfredo Juan Aquilizan, Vinita Karim and Cris Villanueva until Oct. 22 at 1 Sierra Madre St., Grand Heights, Antipolo, Rizal. Aquilizan features his recent works in mixed media; Karim, abstract paintings; and Villanueva, acrylic paintings. Call 6971015.



"STILL Life" 3, by Bert Panes

BOSTON Gallery features three simultaneous solo exhibitions until Oct. 19 at 72 Boston cor. Lantana Sts., Cubao, QC. On view at Lower Gallery is "September Green," an exhibit of landscapes by Jim Orencio; Upper Gallery, Erwin Leaño's "Landscapes"; Alcove, Willie Espino's first series of works using an expressionist palette. Call 7229205.

ATENEO de Manila University features "Art for a Chair," an exhibit-sale until Oct. 24 at Triumph Building, QC. Participating artists are Philip Badon, Greg Bolanos, Angel Cacnio, Buds Convocar, Cris Cruz, Crisanto Lodronio, Jun Martinez, Loreto Racuya, Blaine San Luis, Fernando Sena, Nestor Villanueva, Manuel Yarte and William Yu. Call 9279750.

AYALA Museum presents an exhibition of 19th-century paintings from the Vicky Vizcarra Amalingan collection. "Harvest of Saints: 19th Century Paintings" runs until Nov. 13 at the 4/F gallery. An exhibition of rare 18th-19th century costumes and accessories using *nipis* is also ongoing. "Passionate Eyes: Federico Aguilar Alcuaz" is on view until Oct. 2. Call 7577117 to 21.

ERNIE Garcia has an ongoing exhibit, "Paintings on Tiles," in Heritage Gallery, Megamall A. The exhibit features painted tiles on tabletop, dividers, murals and framed painted tiles.

AYALA Museum is now accepting registrations for art workshops during the fourth quarter from October to December. Workshop fees do not include materials. Discounts apply to old students, Ayala Museum members and senior citizens. Call 7577117.

THE COLLEGE of Fine Arts of the Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation held an art symposium with artist Tam Austria as guest speaker. Photo shows Austria (with hat); architect Benedicto Tan, dean; Carmelita Bermejo, department chair; Mary Divine Austria; and students and faculty.

ABSTRACTIONIST Joe Datuin recently unveiled his 16th solo show "Realizations: An Inspirational Exhibit" at the UST Beato Angelico Gallery of the UST College of Fine Arts and Design (CFAD). The ribbon-cutting ceremony was led by lawyer Libby Tan, Manila register of deeds and art collector. She was welcomed by UST CFAD Regent Fr. Regino Cortes, O.P., students, and faculty.

Romeo Forbes: O

"HIMIG sa Hapon"

"FEBRUARY Flute"

"IHIP ni Inday"

Healing the nation throu

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

REMY BOQUIREN HAS ALWAYS MADE her art respond to challenges. This artist's life has been devoted to noble tasks—teaching, ecology, feminism and justice.

In her show "Remedies by Boquiren" (until Oct. 5, Renaissance Gallery, Artwalk, SM Megamall), Boquiren suggests there is more to women than physical beauty, poise or pulchritude.

These are extraordinary times, she seems to be saying, and they call for extraordinary solutions.

Turning 65 this month, Boquiren has acquired a lofty stature as the painter of women for whom nationhood is a priceless legacy. She has, by twists and turns of her painting life, captured the myriad faces of women subjects, from the lowland lass to highland maiden, ethnic, pietistic, modernistic, radiating their unspoiled charm beneath the finery of dress and delicacy of manners.

But, as has become manifest in her recent shows, these changes have transcended the epidermal or the ephemeral. Indeed, they have become the guideposts in healing the land constantly battered by factional strife, muckraking of the worst kind, and corruption that afflicts the entire body politic.

In her powerfully evocative painting "Father, Heal Our Land," Boquiren shows a woman in prayerful pose, swathed in the Philippine flag, its swirling colors enveloping the main figure. This dramatic image sets the tone for the rest of her suite of women characters, as in the case of the female figure with her *salakot* and *tapis* wrapped around her denims, standing upright, her palms clutching a young tree in "Bayan, Ibalik Mo ang Kagubatan."

Boquiren graciously offers prayer and industry as her most potent solutions to the nation's woes.

There is something stoic about her women, as they gather *palay* or wild tropical flowers, radiant, gamin-faced *kayumanggi* beauties, with a pout that reminds me of the Filipino beauty who went on to become Miss Universe. These are women who do not merely pose by the bushes, behave as prize trophy for the preying male. They are women brimming with hope and optimism.

What is readily noticeable in this advance stage of Boquiren's quest for the Filipina is her ability to clothe her women in the most unconventional dress and finery, totally unmindful of the protocol reserved for such activities.

Having worked as a costume designer in *zarzuela* productions, Boquiren is, of course, fully aware that women these days need not look like Amorsolo beauties bathing by the river.

"FATHER, Heal Our Land," by Remy Boquiren

"BAYAN, Ibalik Mo ang Kagubatan," by Boquiren

"PEÑAFRANCIA Festival," by Pancho Piano

"HAPROS ki Ina," by Piano

Boquiren's women have finally struck a chord that, to her followers and collectors, correctly situates them in the locus of a new dawn just about to break.

Eloquent appeal

The new works of Pancho Piano in the simultaneous exhibition in Naga City during the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Peñafrancia and in other sites bear the artist's eloquent appeal for peace and unity in our nation.

For the month of September, Piano takes center stage in the Peñafrancia Basilica and the Villa Caceres Hotel, with his 12th annual painting exhibit, "Handog Ki Ina" (Offering for Mother).

His images have of late acquired a markedly coloristic motif, which combines surreal and magic-realist oeuvre, truly spectacular when viewed on large canvases.

Equally skilled in both figuration and abstraction (he was a José Joya scholar at the state university), Piano works his favored medium of acrylic, though watercolor and pastel are also his forte. He is also adept in stained glass, and has done a number of commissioned projects here and abroad on a recurring religious theme.

But his abstractions are truly captivating in their innate ability to reveal the iridescent properties of color, celebrating the Pinoy character and, indeed, what makes us unique as a people.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com.

Cordillera artists in exhibit

NINE ARTISTS FROM THE CORDILLERA PAY tribute to their heritage in a group show which opened last Friday in Galerie Andrea (Plaza San Luis Complex, General Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila, tel. 5274089) with Sen. Manuel Villar and Rep. Cynthia Villar as guests of honor.

The exhibit, which will be transferred on Oct. 7 to the gallery's branch at the Gallery Building (Creekside, Amorsolo St., Makati), runs until Oct. 15.

Leonard Aguinaldo of Baguio and John Frank Sabado of Mankayan, Benguet, two leading exponents of Cordillera ethnic art and both recipients of the CCP 13 Artists Award, are among the exhibiting artists.

The others are Roland Bay-an, an Ibaloi who has been chronicling the saga of his people for the past two decades; Rishab (Roger Tibon), originally from Panay and who has settled in Baguio; Jordan Mang-osan, who works with the distinctive medium of "solar burning"; James Gabito, Ged Alangui, Jeff Cablog and Jojo Elmeda.

"BUGAN," by John Frank Sabado

They are all based in the Tam-awan artists' village in Baguio and have received tutelage from Benedicto "BenCab" Cabrera.

The exhibit is a collaboration between Galerie Andrea and Cordillera Coffee in an effort to promote the vanishing Cordillera culture.

"KARIBAL," by Leonard Aguinaldo

n paper

GALLERY BIG (2/F of LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia [formerly Reposo], Makati) presents a collection of works on paper by Romeo Forbes.

Forbes retains his verve with colors in this series of frolic and leisurely bonding while exhibiting eclectic skill. The splashes of vermillion and yellows against bright expanses are contrasts to his erstwhile somber palette of browns, grays and other earthy tones, exuding a more sedate air.

Call 8954516.

ıgh art

Boquiren seems to be saying extraordinary times call for extraordinary solutions

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Cellulite is that spongy, shadowy, lumpy fat build-up that resembles an "orange peel" and usually accumulates on our thighs, upper back or buttocks. You say it's not supposed to be there but the reality is - most women have it, whatever their age may be - and the older you get, the harder it seems to get rid of it. A sad fact but surely not hopeless.

Marie France's introduction of VelaSmooth has done a lot of difference for many women who've tried it and now attest to its effectiveness. One very impressed client, Carmi Martin, recounts, "I noticed that people tend to think that actors are not supposed to age, get fat or something. This certain pressure on us to stay sexy made me unable to join my friends at the beach one time because I didn't want to wear swimsuits that would expose my cellulite. But thanks to VelaSmooth, after only a few sessions, my cellulite is gone and my tummy is flat again!"

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"After only 2 or 3 treatments, my thighs had firmed up!"

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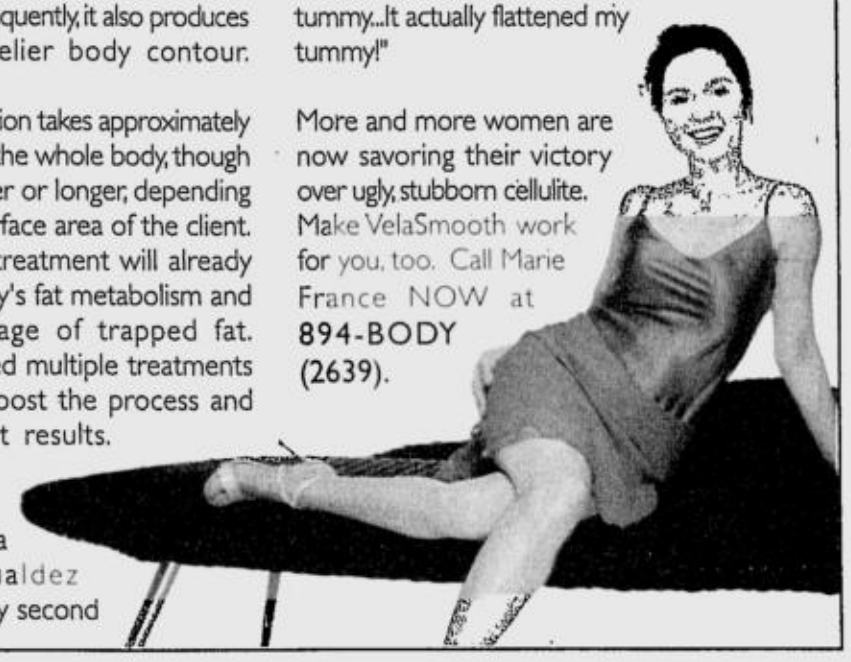
Another very satisfied client, Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez attests, "After only my second or third treatment, I noticed that my thighs firmed up. I thought maybe I was just imagining it. But I really looked at it, and it's really firmed up! I was so happy because after having two babies, sometimes even if you've slimmed down, there are still some areas that are a bit jiggly, which you need to firm up. Cellulite here and there...and even if you go to the gym, it's still there. So VelaSmooth was really a big help. It shapes your body. Even your waist, your tummy...It actually flattened my tummy!"

More and more women are now savoring their victory over ugly, stubborn cellulite. Make VelaSmooth work for you, too. Call Marie France NOW at 894-BODY (2639).



'MORE TREATS FOR A MERRIER CHRISTMAS

With the 'brrrr' months upon us, the Yuletide season can't be far behind. And with the holidays comes the task of completing one's Christmas list, an undertaking which can be very daunting especially in these difficult times. But Christmas shopping need not be a stressful chore, especially when you start off on the right foot.

If you are privileged to own a Metrobank Credit Card, a way to de-stress your Christmas shopping is to take advantage of the perks that come with using your 'M Here card by buying gift items at 'M Here-specific boutiques all over the metro. Be the sweetest stocking-stuffer with freebies and discounts galore from boutiques such as Celine, Replay, MEMO and even more! For larger purchases (a television for Dad? A DVD player for your significant other? An MP3 player for yourself?), 'M Here cardholders can plug into the power of the perks from the country's largest appliance stores: Apple Center, BOSE, Avid, Abenson's and many others!

You've probably heard it before: never shop on an empty stomach. Many fall victim to excessive retail therapy due to hungry bellies, buying extra gifts 'just in case'. Before embarking on a holiday shopping spree, drop by your favorite restaurant or café and load up on some yummy for your tummy. Metrobank Credit Card holders can maximize their pre-shopping dining experience with their 'M Here card. To get a taste of the crème de la crème of the culinary crop at very affordable prices, flash your card at 'M Here-specific establishments for palatable privileges and perks. Sink your sweet tooth into a free serving of French macaroons from Bizu, load up on a free glass of red wine and dessert from Museum Café, feast on free dessert from Burgoo and so much more!

Most importantly, after a bout of budget-wrestling and gift-hunting, it is essential to reward yourself with an hour or two at a spa or wellness center. But these indulgences need not be expensive —'M Here cardholders get the most pampered and privileged deals from the country's premier wellness centers. Get free facial treatments from Clarity Aesthetic Center, a free back massage from the Urban Spa, as well as discounts galore from other health and beauty establishments located all over the metro! Christmas should be a season of cheer and good times, not holiday headaches. This early in the year, get into the holiday habit and check that Christmas list to stuff your loved ones' stockings, sans the stress and the hassle. Get ahead of the gift-giving game with your Metrobank Credit Card. When it comes to perks, privileges, discounts and freebies, there's Metrobank 'M Here.
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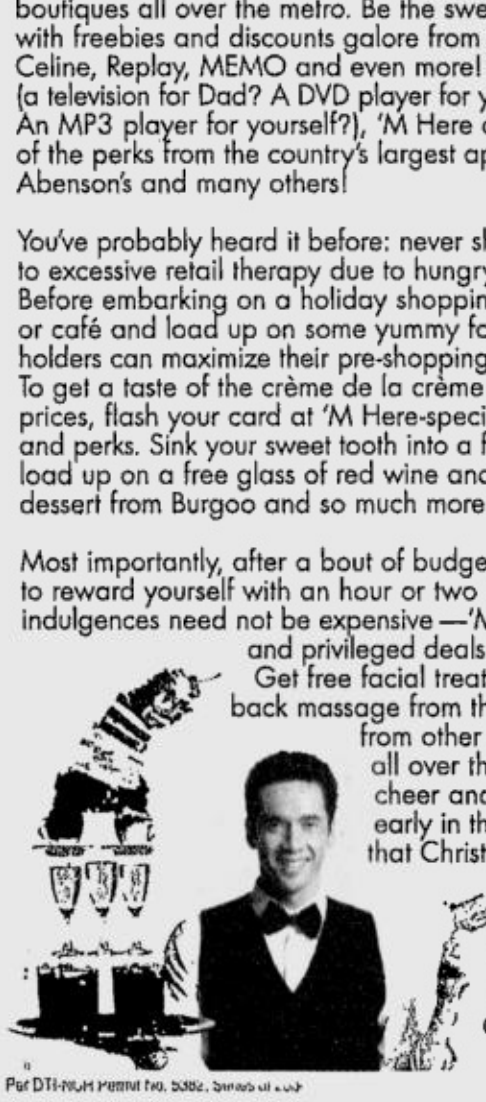

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Come to the Fiesta!

From page C1

wood ghost movie "The Others," which he also directed.

The film screenings will run Sept. 29-Oct. 16 at the Greenbelt I Cinema.

Photo exhibit

Perhaps just as big as the film festival is the very important traveling exhibit, "150 Years of Photography in Spain" (Sept. 27-Nov. 6 at the National Museum). The exhibit shows 113 photographs collected by photo historian Publio Lopez Mondejar and shows Spain as a leader in international photography.

The Fiesta will be launched with a street party on Sept. 30 at 8:30 p.m. at the fountain area of Greenbelt 3, Makati. The Fundacion Centro Flamenco of Emma Estrada will render a fiery flamenco with celebrities such as Lucy Torres-Gomez and Dante Silverio dancing.

Other important events in the Fiesta:

• A performance by Sol Pico, the contemporary dance group from Barcelona, of "Besame el Cactus" (Kiss My Cactus), which won the Max Award for best dance performance in 2003 (Oct. 1, 7:30 p.m., RCBC Plaza)

• The "Manila, My Manila" photo exhibit (Sept. 30-Oct. 30, Greenbelt 3 Cinema lobby)

• The exhibit of entries to the 10th Letras y Figuras painting contest, which this year is dedicated to the 400th anniversary of the publication of the first book of Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote de la Mancha" (Oct. 3-30, Instituto Cervantes)

• The Spanish Food Festival, with the best Spanish cuisine prepared by Spanish chefs

MODERN dance group Sol Pico will perform "Kiss My Cactus."

(Oct. 10-23, Instituto Cervantes and Hyatt Regency)

• The stage production by Dulaang UP of Antonio Muñoz Molina's "Sepharad," a 20th century epic on the Sephardic diaspora, the Holocaust and Stalin's purges (Oct. 21, 7:30 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza)

• "A Night of Spanish Guitar" with guitar master Jorge Orozco in Cagayan de Oro on Oct. 2 and Cebu City on Oct. 4

• "Sounds of Spain," a Latin American music concert by classical guitarist Armando Orbon and jazz pianist Isaac Turienzo (Oct. 8, 7:30 p.m., Carlos P. Romulo Auditorium, RCBC Plaza)

• "Verbena: Spanish Street Party," which features fireworks and a giant paella for 500 people prepared by Alba, Restaurante Español (Oct. 15, Puerta Real Gardens, Intramuros).

• On-the-spot painting contest with the theme "Paint a Nook of Intramuros" (Oct. 15, Puerta Real, Intramuros)

• "Week of Spanish Literature: Traces and Journeys." A dozen Spanish writers will meet with their Filipino counterparts to discuss literary currents (Oct. 24-28, Instituto Cervantes).

For information about Fiesta 2005, call Instituto Cervantes, 5261482 up to 85. Visit http://manila.cervantes.es.

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"LUX," one of the photos on exhibit celebrating 150 years of Spanish photography

Portuguese festival opens with Magellan lecture

A LEADING PORTUGUESE historian will deliver the inaugural lecture of the Ferñao de Magalhães (Ferdinand Magellan) Professorial Chair in Portuguese History at the Tanghalang Teresita Quirino of the University of Santo Tomas Graduate School today at 4 p.m.

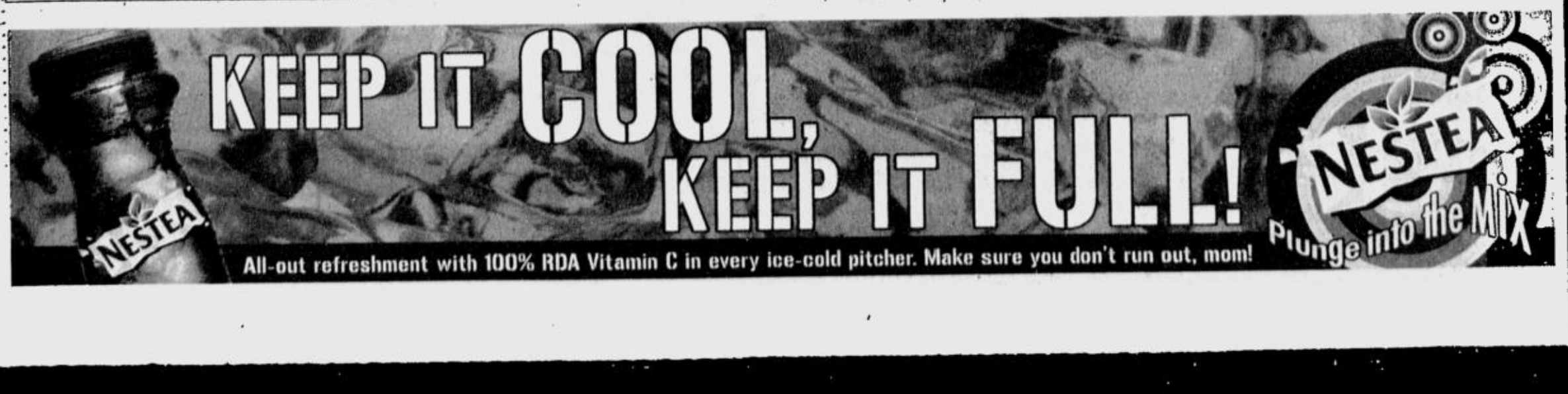
Professor Ivo Carneiro de Sousa returns to UST after his successful lecture and book launching of "The First Portuguese Maps with the Philippines, 1512-1572" last June.

He will be handling a seminar course on Portuguese history with the following lecture topics: the Portuguese expansion in Asia; the Portuguese presence in Southeast Asia; the Portuguese identification and circulation in early modern Philippines; and the Manila-Macao historical long-term connection.

The program will include a turnover of books to the UST Central Library, which was culled from different universities, research centers and archives in Portugal and may be the most substantial collection of literature on Portugal in the country.

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao Caetano da Silva

The activity is the result of the effort of the ambassador of Portugal to the Philippines, Joao Caetano da Silva, to bring together Portuguese and Filipino academics, researchers and historians. The lecture is part of the Portuguese Festival in Manila this week.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2005

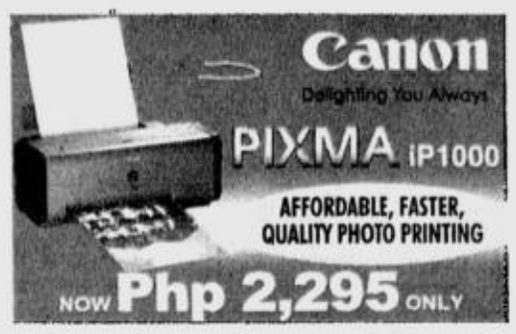
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

CASHING in on the creative arts /D3



CARMENCITA Sipin-Aspiras

DENISE Santos-Huang and her mentor

GARY del Rosario

Pinoy musicians make waves in the US

By Antonio C. Hila
Contributor

TWO FILIPINO singers were in the cast of Seattle Opera Company's "Tales of Hoffman" described as "the best ever."

The Filipinos were in the gala as well as matinee show—one essaying a secondary or *comprimario* role; the other, in the chorus.

The opera had eight performances at the huge McCaw Hall in downtown Seattle. With no microphones, the auditorium's superb acoustics allowed the audience to relish the well-honed voices of the singers.

Tenor Leodigario del Rosario impressed Seattle's critics in his role as Nathanaël that

PINOY/D4

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Best in Math...Best in Science...Best in Sports... what mother doesn't dream of having her child excel in everything and be the School Idol? It's a tough challenge but there are things you can do to help your child improve in both school and extra curricular activities. And you can start by feeding your child's brain - with beans!

BEAN THEM UP

Your child's brain needs the right amount of nutrients to develop properly and function optimally. It needs fats, protein, carbohydrates, and other micronutrients, which may not always be present in some of the foods that kids eat these days. A can of HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS, on the other hand, has all of the nutrients indicated above, and is an instant, tasty repast on its own. Most importantly, it combines proteins and carbohydrates in one convenient and appetizing form.

And getting the right nutrients isn't sufficient for children; studies show that certain food combinations eaten during the same meal enhance the value of each nutrient to your child's body.

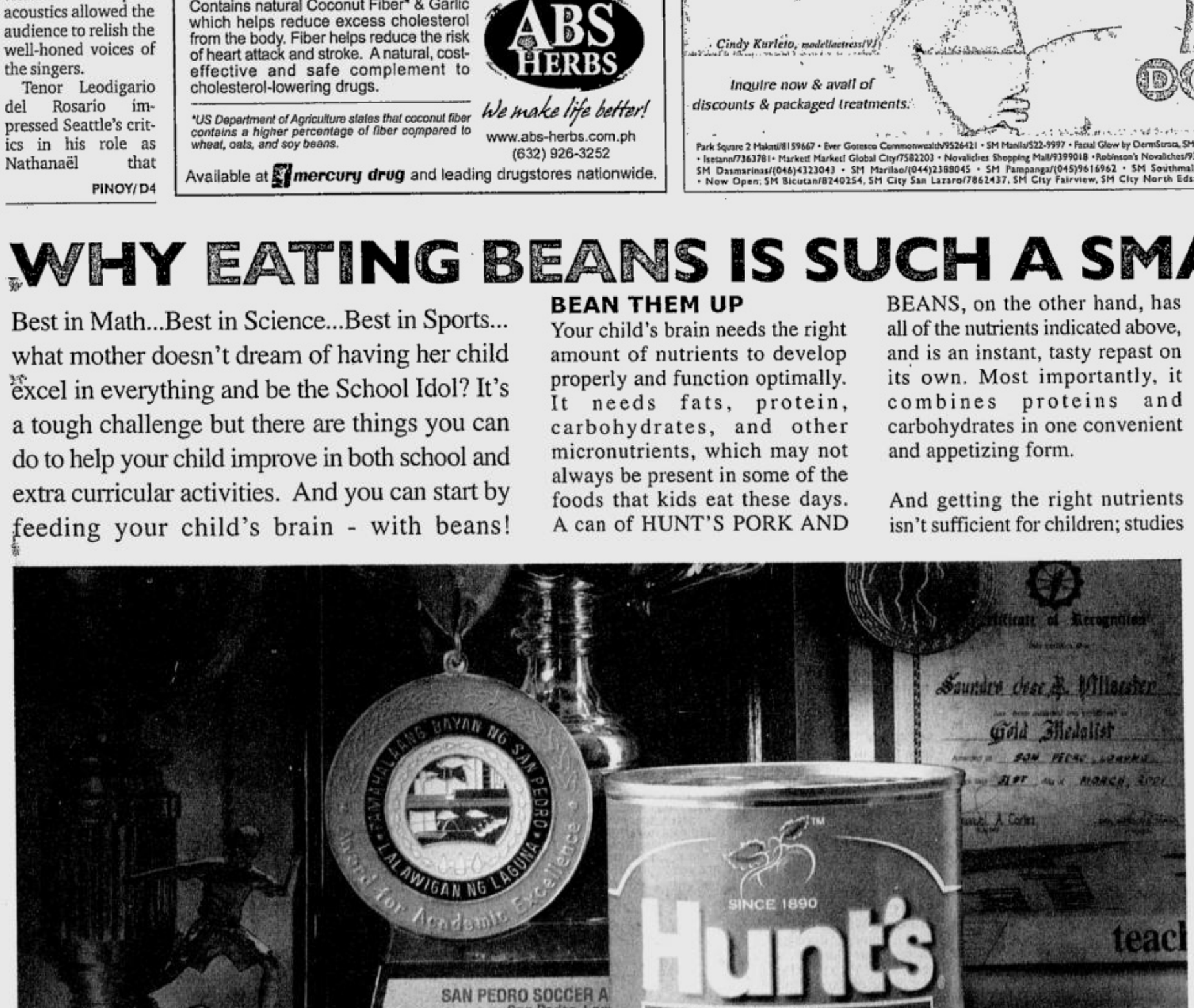
PROTEINS AND CARBOHYDRATES: MADE FOR EACH OTHER

Carbohydrates help fuel your child's brain by turning into glucose. But because carbohydrates (or "carbs" as they're called nowadays) are quickly processed by the body, the glucose levels in the blood can sometimes drop rapidly, leading to what most people recognize as a "sugar crash". The child suddenly feels weak, sleepy and his concentration weakens. Protein foods help stabilize glucose levels so that a child's energy level remains constant. That's why HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS is one of those ideal dishes to serve children!

PERFECT COMBINATIONS

A delicious way to enhance the power of HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS is to combine it with foods like hotdogs, ham, pork chops, fried chicken - the list is endless. Aside from making meals more appetizing, these combinations can inspire creative ways of cooking or pairing HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS with other dishes - for breakfast, dinner and baon!

By encouraging good study habits, you're laying a solid foundation for building your child's brain power. And by making HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS a part of a delicious, nutritious diet, you might just help your child on the way to becoming the next School Idol!



FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

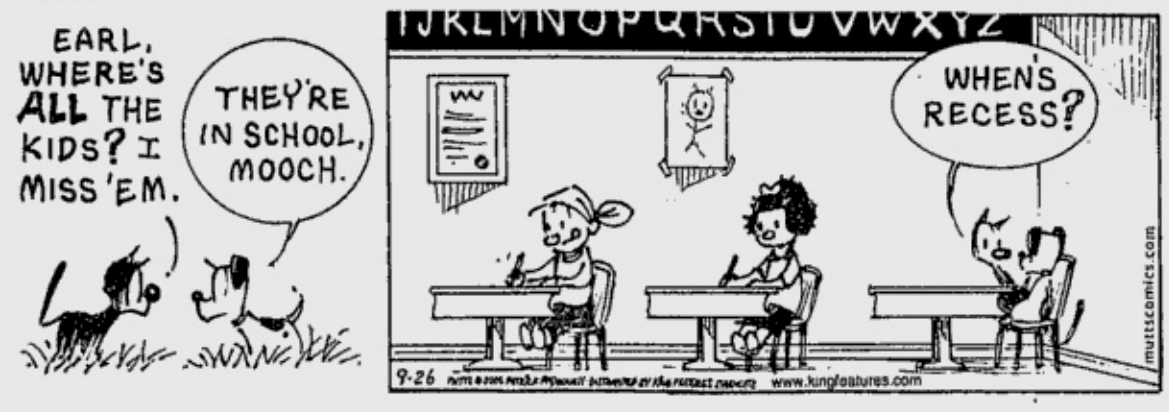
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

c YOU BORN TODAY: You easily see both sides of an equation. Because of this, you distrust dogmatic assumptions. When your energy is strong, others turn to you to be the peacemaker. (Protect your energy and strength.) The year ahead embraces relationships and social occasions. Enjoy the company of others! It's time to be playfully youthful again.
Birthdate of: Jane Smiley, writer; Linda Hamilton, actress; Serena Williams, tennis player.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a pleasant day to start the week off. However, if you can, stay at home today—you'll prefer it. You feel like puttering around where you live.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You've got a lot of energy to earn money today. Your bright ideas could develop into something that ultimately boosts your income. Either way, you feel confident!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might learn secrets about someone who is working against you. This person could be a secret enemy. No matter what happens, you can gain ground today.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with siblings, especially sisters, are significant today. In fact, even casual conversations with neighbors will give you pause.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today. Since the Moon is your ruler, this feels just fine to you. Yes, you feel a bit more emotional; nevertheless, you feel in control.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a lovely day to spend with friends. Similarly, it's a good day to enjoy group activities. Attend meetings, conferences and the like. You'll enjoy being with people today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): People will notice you today for some reason; however, you won't mind it. You're looking great! Discussions with a powerful woman will be memorable.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Be open to receiving advice from someone from another culture or a different background. Someone might be able to tell you how to do something better. Or it could be a hot tip you appreciate.

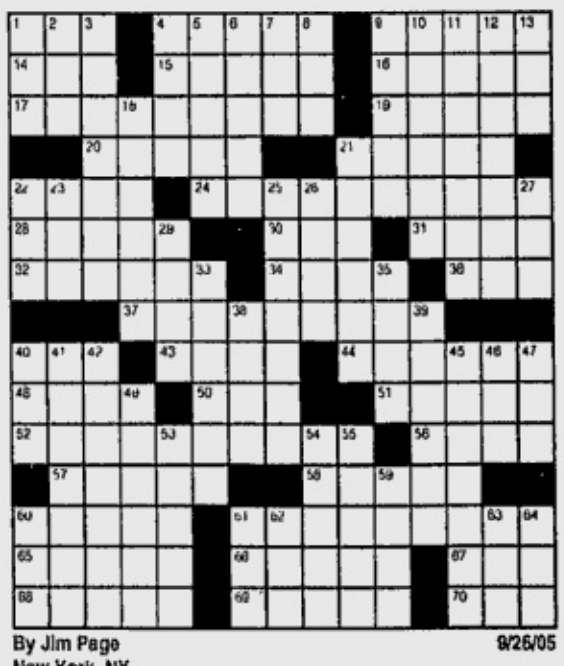
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might have some concerns about your long-term security. That's OK; you're a planner. You like to know that what you're doing is going to really go somewhere. (You always think about the future.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Today's Moon is opposite your sign. This could promote a nice, easy understanding with someone close to you because you're more receptive to what this person has to say.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have a lot of energy to work today. (This is a good day to tidy up your workspace.) Later in the day, you might be tempted to spend too much money on something.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a pleasant, fun-loving day. Working and dealing with children will be particularly delightful. Romance looks swell, too!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Jim Page
New York, NY
9/26/05

ACROSS
1 CSA soldier
4 Clinton cabinet member
9 Meat jelly
14 Above, to poets
15 Goldoni of "Shadows"
16 Likable loser
17 Good luck on stage!
19 Bindlestiff
20 Texas shrine
21 Gossage or Tatum
22 "Das Lied von der __"
24 Some broker's instructions
28 Feudal lord
30 Modernist's prefix
31 Yes indeed, Maria
32 "__ Butterfly"
34 Joule fractions
36 Kind of profit
37 Pauses along the way
40 Paranormal insight
43 Beehive State
44 Chloroform's discoverer
48 Most August babies
50 Of the ear
51 Actress Della
52 Deceptive delivery from the mound
56 Tall tale
57 Blanches
58 Mechanical man
60 "It Happened One Night" star
61 Don't touch that remote!
65 Amorous starer
66 African tongue
67 Pique
68 Green years
69 Not quite right
70 Krazy Kartoon Karacter

DOWN
1 Pilfer
2 End of auction?
3 Coated with crumbs
4 __-Seltzer
5 Dress lines
6 Sitcom demo
7 __-de-France
8 Old horse
9 Fur merchant Jacob
10 Catch-of-the-day fish
11 Put to use gradually
12 Engage wholly
13 NYPD member
18 Sour mash
21 Large number
22 Stately tree
23 River inlet
25 No second chances
26 Felon, to a cop
27 Pose for shots
29 Outback runner: var.
33 Legally bars
35 Hoosegow
38 French actor Jacques
39 Ta-ta!
40 Building wing
41 Ooze quantity
42 Fit for drinking
45 Pad occupant
46 Leb. neighbor
47 DDE's rank
49 Morose
53 Equals
54 Skull: pref.
55 Vandenberg and Wilhelm
59 A/C figures
60 Obtained
61 Mom-&-pop store grp.
62 Dundee topper
63 Period of time
64 Mil. unit

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

F	A	S	T	E	S	T	■	R	A	D	I	A	N	T
E	U	T	E	R	P	E	■	I	G	U	A	N	A	S
D	R	E	D	G	E	S	■	G	U	A	N	I	N	E
O	E	R	■	S	A	T	C	H	E	L	■	M	E	T
R	O	I	L	■	R	I	O	T	S	■	F	I	T	S
A	L	L	E	G	H	E	N	Y	■	P	I	S	T	E
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B	E	H	E	L	D	■	N	A	R	R	A	T	E	D
O	M	A	R	S	■	N	U	M	B	E	R	O	N	E
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V	A	I	N	E	S	T	■	R	O	A	M	E	R	S
I	T	E	R	A	T	E	■	E	N	G	O	R	G	E
A	E	R	A	T	E	D	■	D	E	A	D	S	E	T

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9/26/05

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

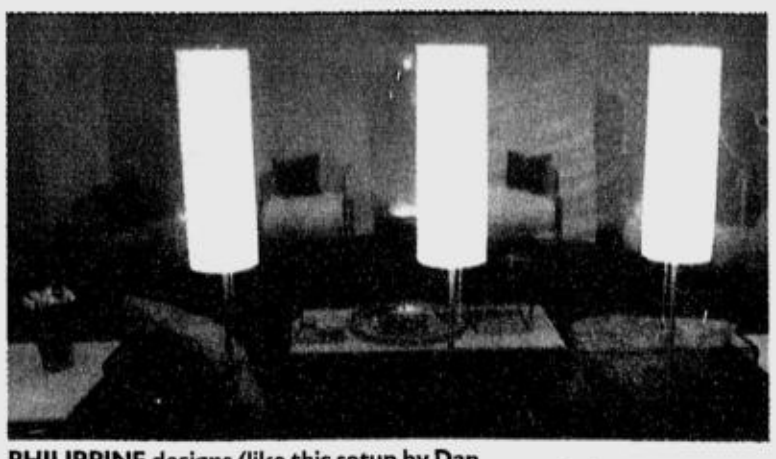
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Creative industries may yet save the Philippines



PHILIPPINE designs (like this setup by Dan Lichauco) have earned raves—and orders—abroad. JOSEPH AGCAOILI

FILIPINO performers in Hong Kong's Disneyland show talent can be exported. GIBBS CADIZ

WHAT ARE THE CREATIVE industries? What do they actually do? Do they contribute to the national economy? Do they enhance national well-being? Are creative industries a force to be reckoned with?

The Department of Trade and Industry, Citem, Cultural Center of the Philippines, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and British Council organized the First Philippine Creative Industries Forum which brought the creative community together to answer those questions.

A succession of stereotypes has clouded public perception of the creative industries, relegating them to the background: Creativity is for the elite, that it is nonessential for nation-building, that the creative sector is fractious, undisciplined and unreliable, and so on.

What are the creative industries? Another stereotype immediately leads to artistic endeavor, flaky at best. However, creativity goes beyond that stereotype.

Publishing, handicraft, architecture, film, tourism, food, cultural heritage are a few of the many professional disciplines that are creative industries. These are business enterprises that employ a number of people whose earnings contribute to the national economy.

Because of the lack of data, the creative industries could be considered a young sector in our national economy, but it could be one of the oldest in fact. Traditional livelihoods, like agriculture, trading, woodcarving, loom-weaving, basketry, and other crafts-based activities, have been sustaining Filipinos for a long time.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

The DTI, Citem and Design Center Philippines have successfully built up crafts-based production as a base for employment and export manufacturing for Philippine products which have become extremely successful in the international market.

The many international awards won by Philippine products in trade fairs all over the globe is proof of their excellence.

Another recognition of excellence is the recent pirating of Ballet Philippines dancers by Hong Kong Disneyland for the theme park's daily song-and-dance extravaganzas.

When the Singapore Art Museum was conceptualized, work by Filipino artists was one of the backbones of its collection.

Over the last five years, three Filipino projects were winners in the prestigious Unesco Asia-Pacific Cultural Heritage Awards.

At the recently concluded Holcim Awards for Sustainable Architectural Development, nine awardees were from China, one from Japan, and two from the Philippines.

The awards certify that the Philippine cultural industry is world-class.

To really know the impact of creative industries in the country, an inventory should be done to determine the number of people working in the sector and their contributions to the national economy.

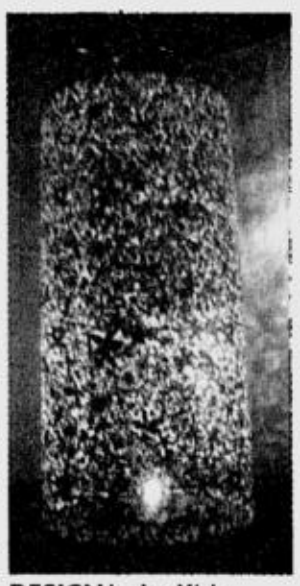
Once the statistics are in, my forecast is that the numbers will prove arts and culture contribute significantly to national economy.

Most highly prized

Richard Florida, in his book "The Rise of the Creative Class," says that creativity is "the most highly prized commodity in our economy." Creativity is multidimensional. Therefore, it can be economic, technological and organizational, and is not confined just to the artistic and cultural as people are made to believe.

Creativity, says Florida, cuts across disciplines.

Because creativity is essential to the success of any endeavor, people with exceptional creativity are the individuals who make a strong mark as the key assets of not only the organizations but of nations as well.



DESIGN by Ito Kish JOSEPH AGCAOILI

How to make the creative industries a force to be reckoned with?

Awareness is crucial. Not many people know what the creative industries are and how they contribute to the psychic and economic Philippine well-being.

At the conference, the strongest sentiment was that the national government should aid and support the creative industries on a level higher than it currently does.

Government support is definitely needed. But what support should it give? That was the challenge the conference threw to the participants.

Instead of the usual top-down approach where government is expected to solve all ills, why not a partnership between the cultural community and the government that focuses on specific issues that need immediate attention?

It really came down to the private sector, the cultural community in this instance, having to take the lead and tell the government what it needs. The public sector should respond to the needs of the private sector.

Before expecting the government to institute programs for the cultural industries to flourish, culture should flourish in each Filipino.

What it means is that if culture is going to be respected as essential in nation-building, we should respect culture in our own homes first. If teachers tell our children that our culture is worth a second look, will our children believe their teachers if their parents do not provide the example that Philippine culture is worth saving?

Nestor Jardin, CCP president, said that a mayor once asked him: "*Sining at kultura, makakain ba 'yan?*"

Creativity, art and culture per se might not be edible, but as the creative industries they certainly put food on many tables. And going beyond that, they definitely put the Philippines on the world map.

Time has come to change the negative stereotypes that have sidelined the creative community, which should now enjoy recognition as an essential force in nation-building.

Culture is, after all, the human factor that makes Philippine society different from other societies in the world.

Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

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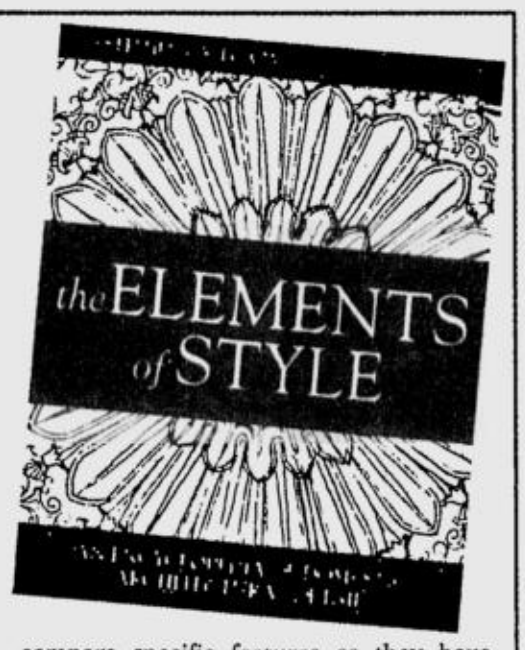
Improved architecture source book



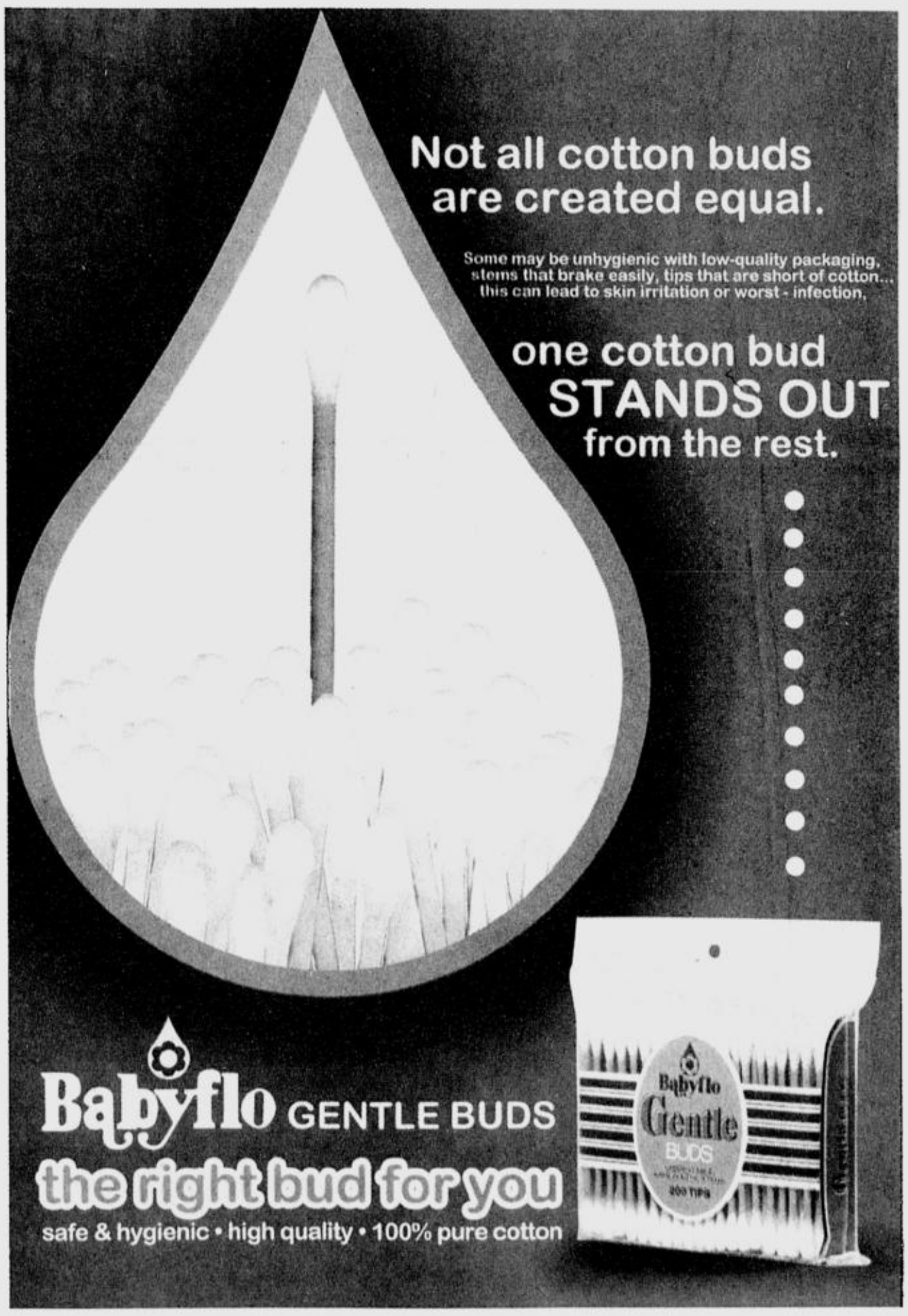
"THE ELEMENTS OF STYLE" IS THE MOST comprehensive visual survey, period-by-period, feature-by-feature, of the styles that have had the greatest impact on the interiors of British and American domestic architecture.

Covering more than 500 years of architectural styles from Tudor to Postmodern and chronologically tracing the key styles and periods of architectural design over the past 500 years, the sourcebook is designed for owners of period houses, restorers and architects, interior designers and all those interested in our building heritage.

The newly updated and expanded edition contains more than 3,000 analytical drawings and historic engravings, together with 500 color photographs and over 1,000 black-and-white photographs.

A system of color-coded tabs on each double-page spread enables the reader to compare specific features as they have evolved over time. A fully revised chapter covering from the postwar era to Postmodernism and a brand new chapter on the contemporary era brings the book to the present.

"The Elements of Style" is available at National Book Store.



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Pinoy musicians make waves in the US

From page D1

marked his stage debut as a resident artist of the opera company. He previously sang Borsa from the pit for two performances of Verdi's "Rigoletto." Last season he sang Ferrando in Mozart's "Cosi Fan Tutte" for Seattle Opera's Young Artists Program.

Melinda Bergreen of the Seattle Times rated his performance "excellent." Rod Parke of Seattle Gay News Arts & Entertainment said the performance was a "standout."

Parke cited "the big and honeyed voice of tenor Leodigario del Rosario, whose acting and singing of Nathanaël made me hope we'll be seeing more of him soon."

During the rehearsals, the obviously impressed Speight Jenkins, general director of the company, told Del Rosario he would be in next year's production of Verdi's "Macbeth," which will close Seattle Opera's season, as Malcolm.

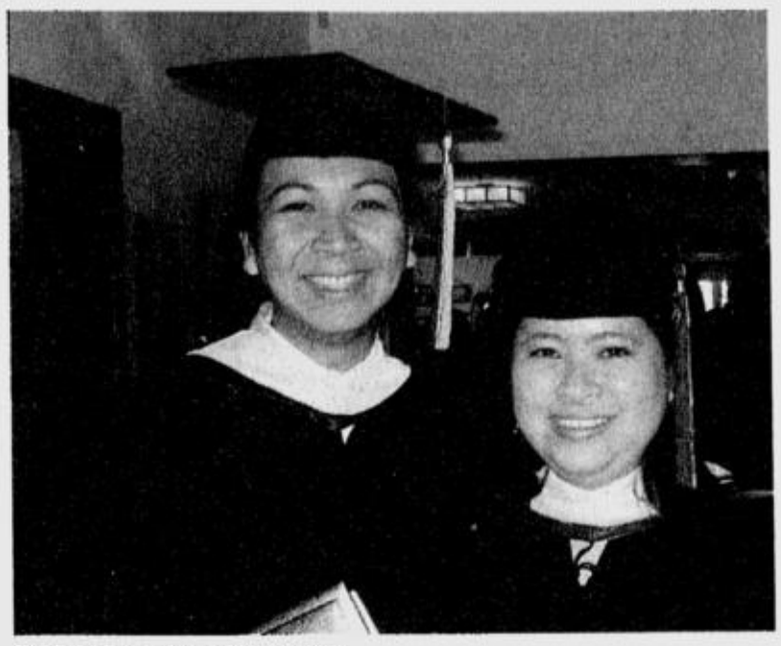
Del Rosario received Cleveland Opera's 2003 Bell Morse Award for Young Artists. He sang Borsa on Cleveland Opera's stage as well as Alfred in Johann Strauss Jr.'s "Die Fledermaus." He was Don Ramiro in Rossini's "Cenerentola" with Lyric Opera Cleveland, and was a soloist of the Cleveland Orchestra. He had several singing roles on tour with Cleveland Opera.

Karl Reyes, another Filipino in the Seattle opera cast, is a tenor singing with the chorus. A budding soloist, Reyes has been with Seattle Opera Chorus for 12 seasons now.

He debuted with the Fargo Moorhead Opera as Goro in Puccini's "Madama Butterfly." He was Pinkerton in the same opera staged by the Shoreline Opera Workshop and Uncle Yakuside for Seattle Opera in 2002. He was understudy for the First Prisoner in Seattle Opera's Beethoven's "Fidelio" in the 2003 season.

Reyes is equally at home in musical theater and oratorio. His upcoming roles include Spoletta in Puccini's "Tosca" with Tacoma Opera in 2005.

The Seattle Opera Company, founded in 1963, is one of the leading opera companies in the United States. It is recognized internationally for its theatrically compelling and musically accomplished performances.



ROBIN Estrada and Hiyas Hila

Meanwhile, Marissa Rebadulla-Ramos is establishing a reputation as a fine piano teacher in Seattle. She earned her bachelor's degree in piano performance at the University of the Philippines College of Music. Professor Carmencita Arambulo was her mentor.

Rebadulla-Ramos earned her masters in music degree from the University of Washington School of Music in Seattle.

In Chicago, Karell Bernardo, a male nurse with a handsome baritone voice, sings in an opera chorus. The chorister, who also studied singing in Manila, takes private vocal lessons and sings with the chorus of Da Corneto Opera which recently mounted Verdi's "Don Carlo."

KARL Reyes

Bay Area Pinoys

In San Francisco, three Filipinos have finished graduate studies in music. Denise Santos Huang got her masters in violin performance from San Francisco State University under professor Jassen Tolorov. She was a winner in her school's annual concerto competition, and performed Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy" with the school orchestra.

Robin Estrada and Hiyas Hila graduated with master's degrees in composition and piano performance at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a private school. Both are fellows of the Asian Cultural Council (ACC) last school year.

Estrada got top honors in the Conservatory Choral Composition Competition for his piece "Aire de Nocturno." Hila will move to University of Minnesota for her doctorate. She also has a teaching assistantship and a fellowship award. The ACC fellowship, renewed this school year, will cover board, lodging and other needs.

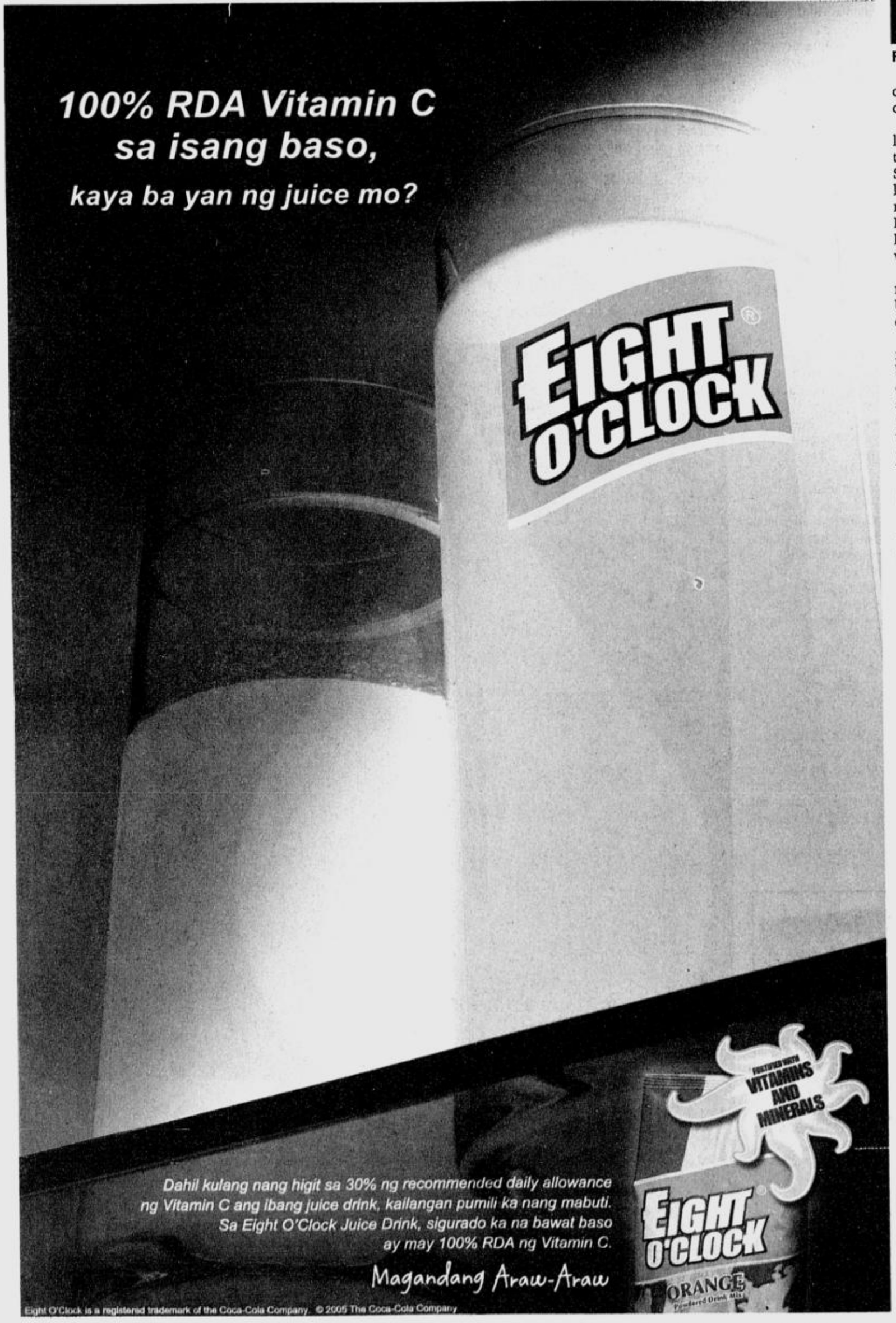
In Freemont, California, concert pianist-pedagogue Carmencita Sipin-Aspiras is busy with her private studio while performing in the Bay Area and East Coast. In Manila, she premiered works of Sir Michael Tippett and Vladimir Kazenin during the Philippine-Russian festival with the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra some years ago.

She pursued her graduate studies at the Vienna State Academy of Music, alma mater of Zubin Mehta, Martha Argerich, Friedrich Gulda, Mitsuko Uchida. She was the teacher of Joey Uriarte, a graduate of University of Minnesota, and Ariel Dechosa, a graduate of Manhattan and Peabody Schools of Music.

Pianist Dechosa and violinist Joseph Esmilla collaborate on some performances, and also do solo appearances in the East Coast. Their recent collaborative concert was at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania, where Esmilla is an adjunct faculty member.

Dechosa is the music director of the Inter-Atlantic Music Foundation, a nonprofit charitable organization promoting the appreciation of art in all its forms. He is busy with a major project of the foundation, the promotion of an opera composition competition about the Holocaust. Winning entry will be shown worldwide.

Cellist Willie Pasamba drove from Kansas City to San Francisco to attend a seminar on cello at Stanford University in June. He combines teaching and concertizing while pursuing his doctorate study at University of Missouri.



Santamaria, Reyes end piano tour

AFTER 38 SHOWS, PIANISTS INGRID SALA Santamaria and Reynaldo G. Reyes ended their 10th Philippine and International Romantic Piano Concerto Journey.

They played their final concerts on Aug. 18-19 at the Assumption University Grand Salon and German-Thai Cultural Center in Bangkok, and on Aug. 21 at Djakarta Arts Center.

The tour began on June 14 with six concerts in Los Angeles. Five Asian performances followed in Djakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

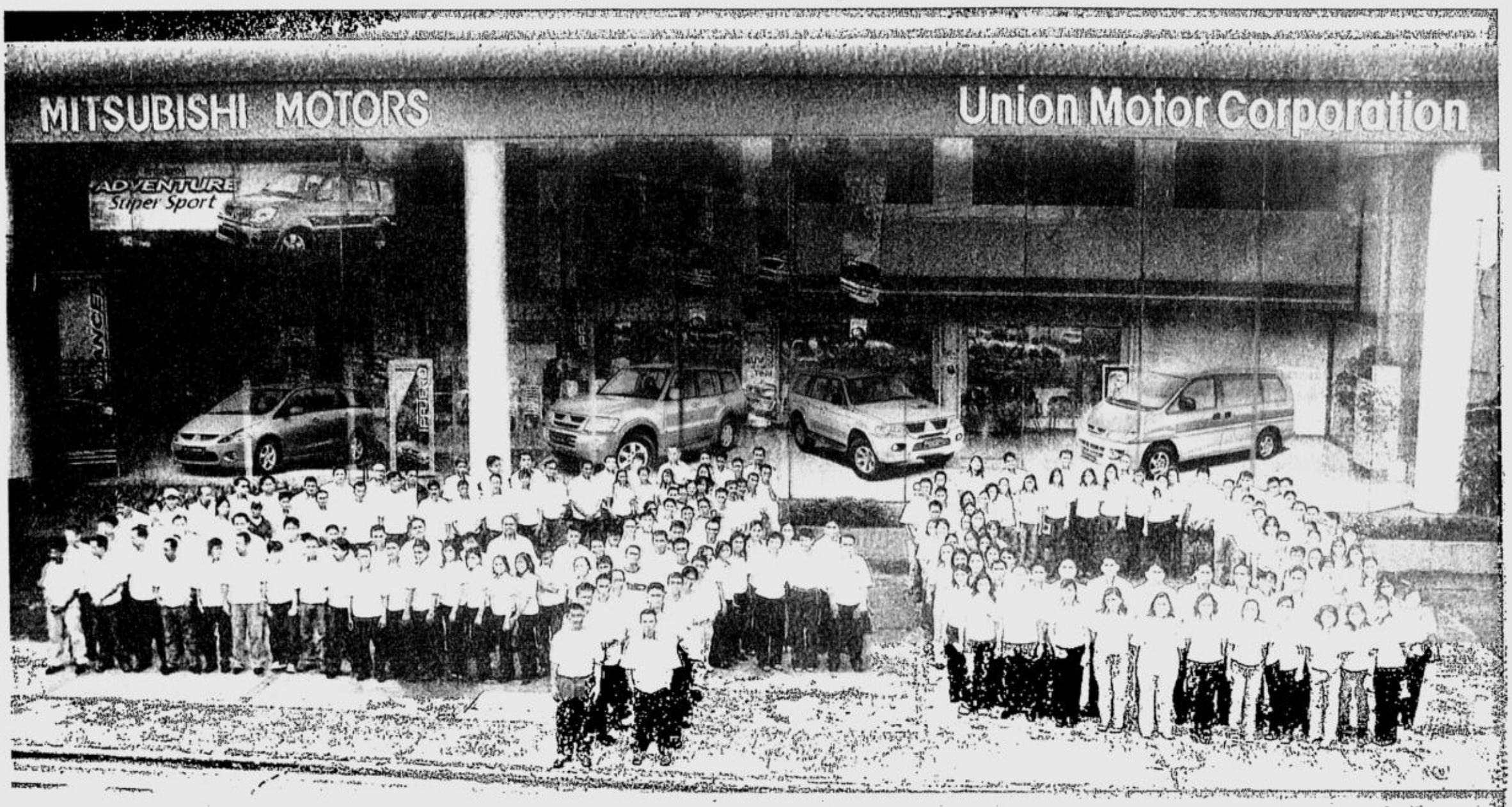
The Philippine segment included 16 concerts in Metro Manila, two in Cavite, three in Cebu, two in Cagayan de Oro, and one in Tagaytay City.

With over 160 concerts since the inception of the bi-annual tours in January 2001, the concert format features Santamaria as soloist and Reyes as "orchestra" on a second piano. Most of the orchestral reductions have been originally written by the composers themselves.

The repertoire features piano concert from the Romantic period, circa 1800-1910. Filipino compositions by Buencamino and Santiago are also played.

There is usually an open forum for performers and audience to interact.

The next tour in January 2006 will focus on Asian stages. E-mail rcpj731@yahoo. com



UNION MOTOR CORPORATION

Mitsubishi's pioneer dealer going strong at 40

By Joel V. Nigos

'I believe it all boils down to keeping a close relationship with our clients. We know we have given them what they expected from us aside from extending our hand more if need be.'

Skyrocketing fuel prices notwithstanding and amid difficult economic times, car dealerships remain one of the most competitive businesses today. What with more car brands, and well, new dealers, entering the industry each professing to meet the needs of every individual or company.

This industry has also seen dramatic changes throughout the years. Gone are the days of big showrooms. Pocket or satellite showrooms now would do as functions of a bigger showroom are replaced by a car company's or a dealer's website. There's also the wide use of the Internet among clients nowadays, which a few decades ago was unheard of.

One dealership has become a living witness to all these changes, a company which has seen how the industry has gone up and down and has managed to surpass all of its challenges. Union Motor Corp, Mitsubishi Motors Philippines' top dealer, is now celebrating its 40th year in a dynamic and demanding industry.

UMC was the very first dealer to introduce and carry Mitsubishi automobiles in the Philippine market, making it a byword in the automotive industry. Its continued and well-appreciated response to the needs of its clients has made it one of the most established car dealerships in the country today.

Beginnings

UMC began in 1965 when five friends decided to put up a company and form a dealership. At its first outlet located at Quezon Avenue, it then started selling motorcycles, becoming a sole importer of the Honda brand.

In one of their trips abroad, they saw the opportunity to bring cars into the country. They applied for distributorship from Mitsubishi's mother company in Japan, then began importing the Mitsubishi 360cc van, since it was relatively affordable. That was when UMC's relationship with Mitsubishi commenced.

When UMC's subdealers converted the small van's enclosure into side windows, this made the van look like a passenger vehicle, and immediately became a hit in the market.

When Chrysler Motors saw the potential for this type of vehicle, it entered into a joint venture with Mitsubishi Japan in 1971. Chrysler then put up a manufacturing plant in the Philippines. Using the same chassis and engine of the Mitsubishi 360cc van, it designed the Minica. The joint venture with Chrysler allowed the company to produce a full line of Mitsubishi vehicles—the Cimarron, the Minicab, and of course, the Minica.

Chrysler then became the exclusive distributor of all Mitsubishi vehicles, since it was the one who manufactured them.

But the exclusive distributorship of the Minica was awarded to UMC in 1972. The vehicle became an instant hit in the market. From 1972 to 1977, from selling the Minica, UMC's dealerships had grown to 14 and covered Luzon to Mindanao. Notable dealerships were the Mindanao Commercial Integrated Enterprises in General Santos, Zamboanga Motors and its own Union Motorama in Davao.

The Minica competed directly with the then so-called people's car, the Volkswagen Beetle. Because of its comparative affordability, the Minica almost replaced the Beetle as the "people's car". And with the Minica, UMC was able to get one of its first fleet clients—Fortune Tobacco and La Perla—which used the Minica as their delivery vehicles.

The Minica was also introduced in the provinces as a public utility vehicle, and became the main means of transportation to a point when it almost replaced the taxi.

In 1977, UMC applied for distributorship of the full-range of Mitsubishi vehicles and became the first dealer to carry all types of vehicles, from passenger cars, commercial vehicles, to trucks such as the Fuso.

UMC also sold the Cimarron, the predecessor of the L300 FB, the most used light commercial vehicle today, the Galant, which was selling at only P19,000 in 1972 and P21,000 in 1977, and the box-type Lancer, which was the number one Mitsubishi vehicle in 1984.

Top-selling dealer

Present-day UMC boasts of three branches with showrooms situated in Metro Manila's key cities: at Paco, its main office and the first showroom in the area which, with all the dealers around selling almost all the car brands in the market, has become a mecca for car dealerships; at Jose Abad Santos, and also at Caloocan. Both the Paco and the Jose Abad Santos outlets also have their respective service centers.

As one of the top selling dealers, UMC holds Mitsubishi's and some of the industry's sales records.

In September 1993, UMC was the highest contributor to MMPC's sales when Mitsubishi sold 2,988 units, topping all categories in the industry. In December 1993, UMC hit the 700-unit target mark for vehicle sales, selling 739 units (503 cars, 176 LCVs and 40 trucks). In December 1994, UMC hit the 800-unit target mark, selling 814 units composed of 523 cars, 58 LCVs, 58 trucks and 7 buses.

UMC also holds the highest monthly sales among Mitsubishi dealers for the following vehicles-May 1979, seven buses; May 1994, 523 cars; December 1995, 88 trucks; and December 1995 also, 462 LCVs. Total sold units in December 1995 also surpassed the 820-unit mark.

John Mabasa, assistant vice president for sales at UMC's head office, says they would not have achieved them if not for the better service UMC has provided their customers.

"I believe it all boils down to keeping a close relationship with our clients. We know we have given them what they expected from us aside from extending our hand more if need be," explains Mabasa.

He adds that they have continued to train their people, especially their 200-strong sales force, equipping them with the knowledge about their products and the necessary skills on how to get ahead of the competition.

"We also constantly think of add-on services which we know will help or make our customers' life easier when buying a car," he says. Some of them, says Mabasa, are the auto-loan financing in which they are tied up with the major banks, LTO registration and the insurance needs of the buyers.

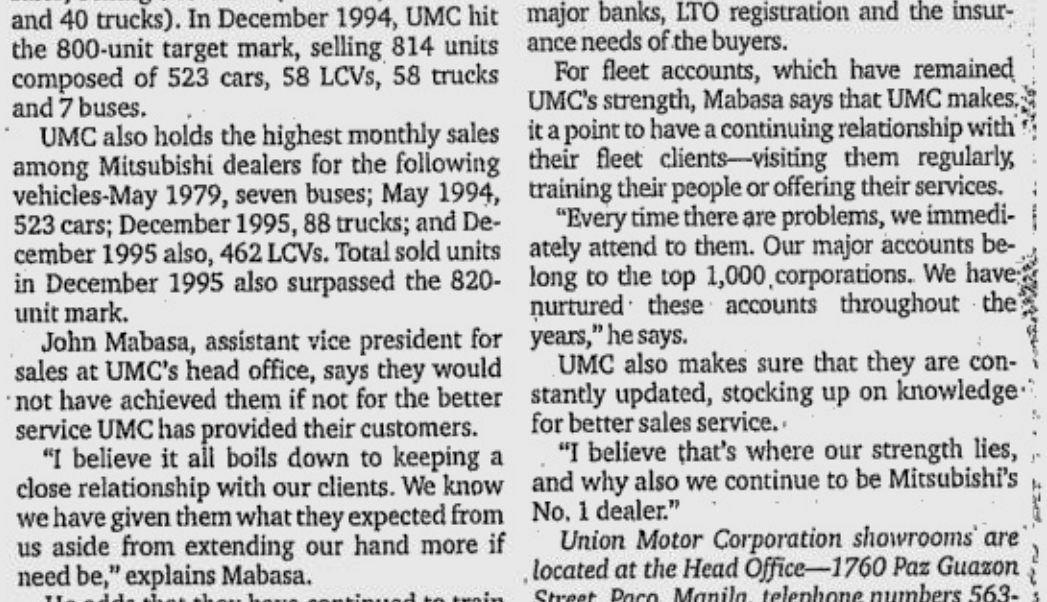
For fleet accounts, which have remained UMC's strength, Mabasa says that UMC makes it a point to have a continuing relationship with their fleet clients—visiting them regularly, training their people or offering their services.

"Every time there are problems, we immediately attend to them. Our major accounts belong to the top 1,000 corporations. We have nurtured these accounts throughout the years," he says.

UMC also makes sure that they are constantly updated, stocking up on knowledge for better sales service.

"I believe that's where our strength lies, and why also we continue to be Mitsubishi's No. 1 dealer."

Union Motor Corporation showrooms are located at the Head Office—1760 Paz Guazon Street, Paco, Manila, telephone numbers 563-8481 to 85 or 563-8461 to 67; Caloocan Branch--198 Edsa corner Tandang Sora Street, Caloocan City, telephone numbers 364-2061 to 69, and Jose Abad Santos Branch (near the Binondo business center)—2421-43 Jose Abad Santos Avenue, Tondo, Manila, telephone numbers 251-7021 to 27.



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UMC CHARITY PROJECT

Gratitude to society which has supported it all these years

By Joel V. Nigos

Forty years in the business is no easy feat, and Union Motor Corp. knows that it would not have achieved this without the help of people or institutions, or even the community where it belongs.

As gratitude to society and as a way of giving back to the community which has supported it all these years, UMC chose two charitable institutions as beneficiaries of its anniversary celebrations' charity project.

Through this activity, the company believes it was able to share the blessings it has received and would make its 40th year in the industry more meaningful.

Hospicio de San Jose

The first of such charity projects was held Sep. 1 at the Hospicio de San Jose in Manila, a respectable institution, which, coincidentally is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

Believing that education is the foundation and key for a brighter future, management and officers of UMC gave out school supplies—coloring books, crayons, pad papers, pencils and ball pens—to the hospice's kids. The children were also provided T-shirts with Mitsubishi cars printed on it.

And to make the event truly memorable,

GRATITUDE/ Page 4

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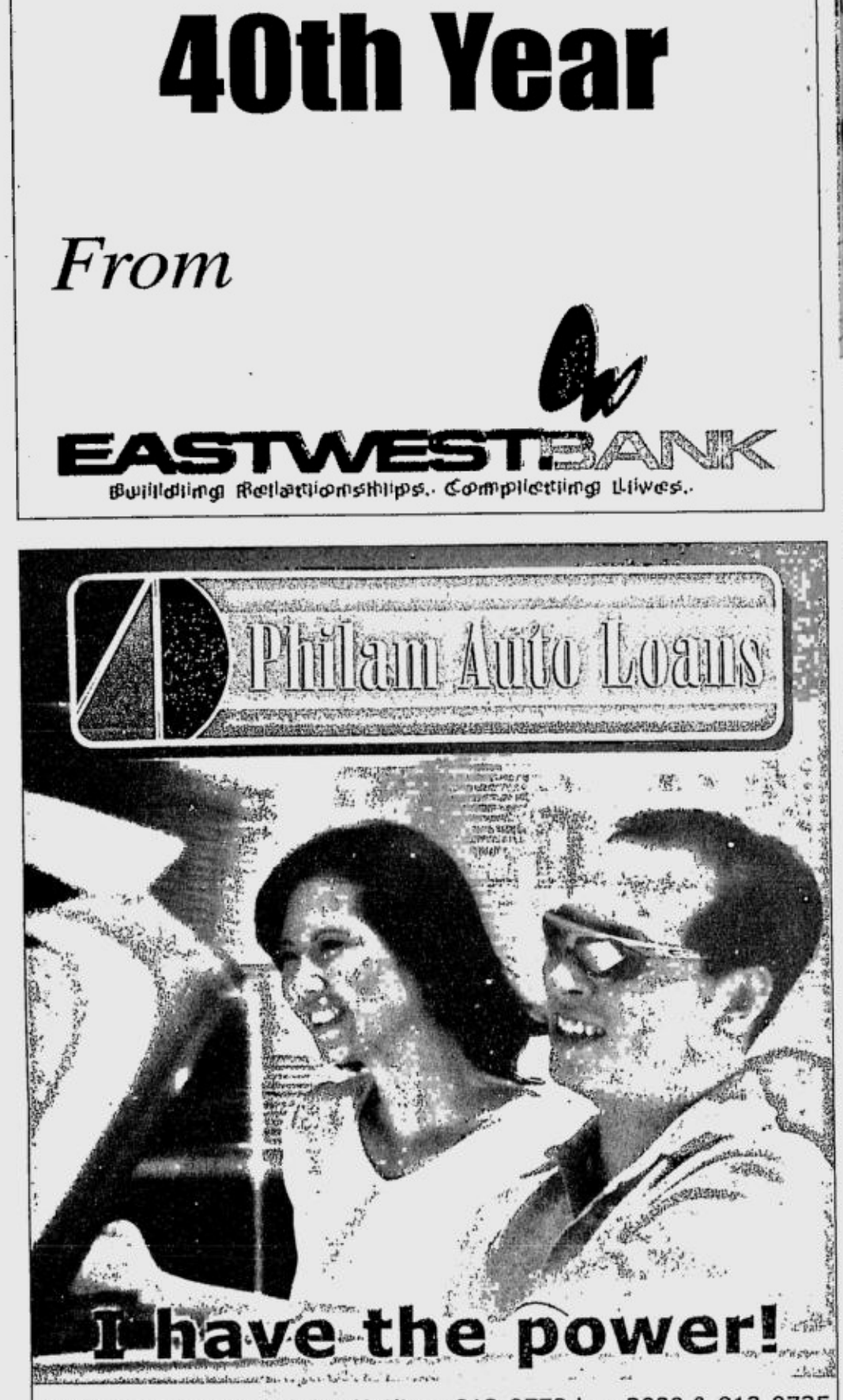

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Mitsubishi Motors to enter Lancer Evolution MIEV in Shikoku EV Rally 2005

MIEV: an all-wheel drive using new type of in-wheel motor

TOKYO - MITsubishi Motors Corp recently entered a Lancer Evolution MIEV (Mitsubishi In-wheel motor Electric Vehicle) test vehicle in the Shikoku EV Rally 2005 to held Aug. 27 and 28 in Tokushima Prefecture on the island of Shikoku, Japan.

Deriving from the company's Lancer Evolution IX high-performance 4WD sports sedan, Lancer Evolution MIEV uses a lithium-ion battery system to power four newly developed in-wheel motors.

The Shikoku EV Rally 2005 was organized by the Shikoku EV Challenge committee and the Shikoku EV Rally 2005 executive committee.

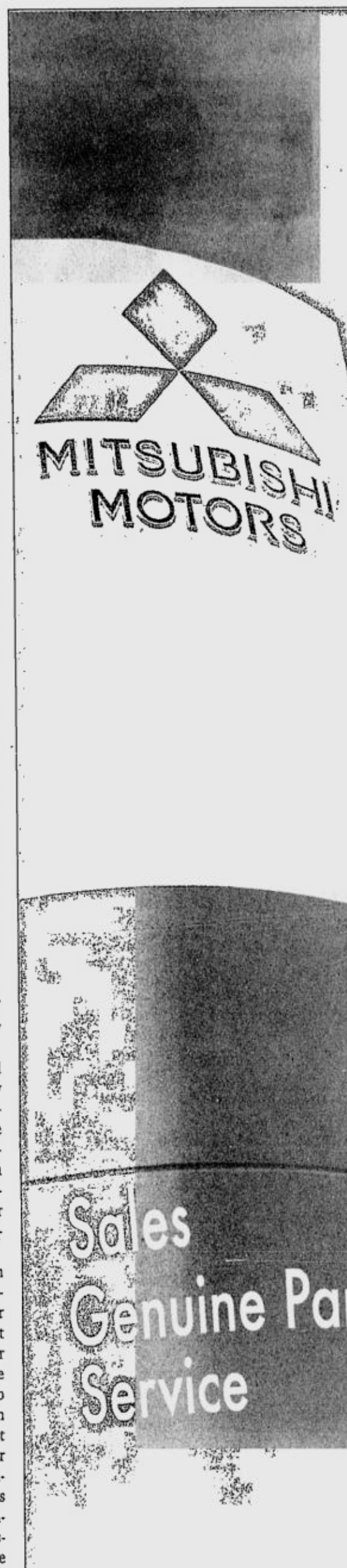
Mitsubishi Motors is driving forward the development of the MIEV next-generation electric vehicle and is planning to bring a MIEV model, built around core technologies of in-wheel motors and high density lithium-ion batteries, to market by 2010. The Lancer Evolution MIEV will be the company's second MIEV test vehicle, following the Colt EV announced in May 2005.

The new in-wheel motor uses a hollow doughnut construction that locates the rotor outside the stator as opposed to a common electric motor where the rotor turns inside the stator.

This construction brings several benefits. It makes it easier to raise power output and torque; higher torque allows the speed reducer unit to be eliminated, which means less weight and improved power transmission efficiency; and it offers better space efficiency with the brake assembly fitting inside the motor which itself fits neatly within the wheel house.

The outer-rotor arrangement also surmounts the difficulties presented to date by the steering system, making it suitable for fitting to and driving the front wheels that opened the way to 4WD in-wheel motor vehicles.

Mitsubishi Motors has acquired vehicle type certification for Lancer Evolution MIEV and will be conducting practicality evaluations over a wide variety of conditions, the Shikoku EV Rally and other public road driving included. The evaluation programs will assist the company in developing high-performance electric, hybrid and fuel cell vehicles that deliver not only superior environmental performance but also output performance and maneuverability equal to or better than gasoline-fueled vehicles.

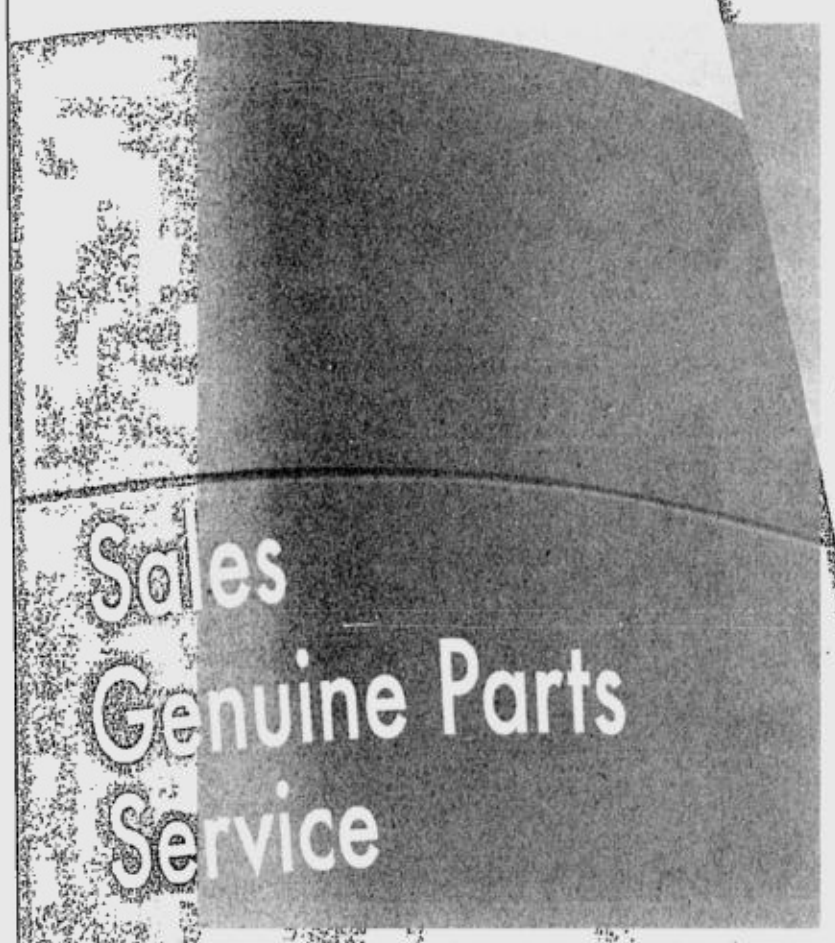


Congratulations to

Union Motor Corporation

for celebrating its

40th Anniversary.



Thank you for your continued dedication and commitment to Mitsubishi Motors Philippines and for servicing the Filipino customers for 40 years.

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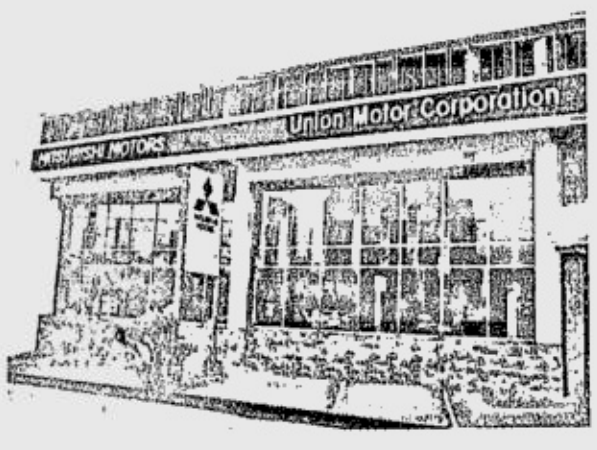

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Gratitude . . .

From page 2

UMC hosted a Jollibee Kiddie Party with the children. UMC volunteers joined the kids in fun-filled games, which, indeed put a smile on the young ones' faces. The party was capped with everybody partaking of a hearty meal from Jollibee.

Present at the charity project for UMC were AVP for sales-Paco John Mabasa, marketing manager Roel Baron, HR and admin manager Nida Sanano, auto loans manager Dionee Dela Cruz, senior sales manager Don Comia, administrative assistants manager Val Marquez and Linda Lara, Anthony Cheng, Charleen Teng and Gilbert Dee.

Headed by its administrator and senior superior Sr. Ma. Socorro G. Evidente, Hospicio de San Jose is a Catholic welfare institution that aims to provide a welcoming family to children and elderly people deprived of their own. The institution's program areas include residential care, adoption, education, physical therapy and rehabilitation, crisis intervention, community outreach and pastoral care.

Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission

More than a week later, UMC volunteers trooped to the Foundation of Our Lady of Peace Mission Inc in Barangay San Dionisio, Parañaque City for its second charity activity.

Held Sep. 9, a party was also provided for the children at the foundation as well as donations in kind such as pillows, blankets and beddings.

UMC officers who were present at the event were marketing manager Roel Baron, administration supervisor Val Marquez and sales supervisor Sherry Novido.

Chaired by Fr. James B. Reuter, the foundation is a non-stock, non-profit organization that services 10 poverty-stricken areas in Metro Manila and the cultural minorities in various parts of the archipelago. Its programs include educational scholarships for street children and out-of-school youths, community livelihood projects, hospital services for the poor, and a street children program where health and nutrition, education and livelihood training are given out to the kids.

UMC, as a responsible corporate citizen, aims to provide assistance to our less fortunate brothers and sisters. Throughout the years, it has made an impact with society with its outreach activities such as helping in disaster-relief operations or by donations to charitable institutions.

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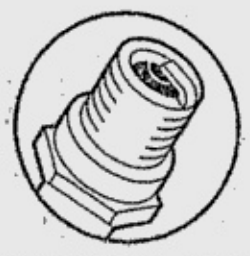

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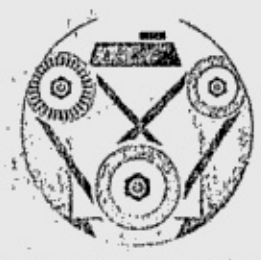

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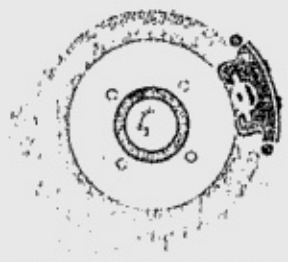

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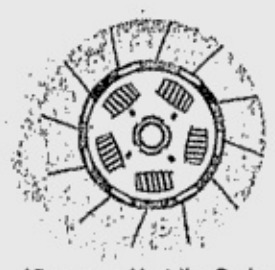

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